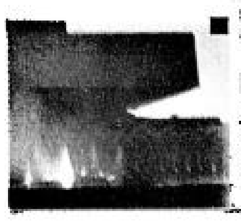

■ Lifestyle/E2

Dire wishes for CCP on 35th year

■ Sports/A25

FEU forces final game vs La Salle

■ Business/B1

RP foreign debt burden hits $56.3B

■ World/A10

Iraqi girl pleads for life of UK hostage

■ Entertainment/A33

Melanie wants 'public hearing' on libel charges

WANTED
GUYITO ON THE LOOSE!
REWARDS

Ex-CPP leader killed

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE HEAD of a breakaway communist rebel group was gunned down in Quezon City last night, the third senior leftist figure to be assassinated in the Metro Manila area in recent years, police said.

Arturo Tabara, chair of the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa-Pilipinas (RPMP), and a companion were shot to death

EX-CPP/A21

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INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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WANTED/A22

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Monday, September 27, 2004 ★★ 84 pages / 7 sections / vol. 19 / no. 292 P18

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₱1M for early gov't retirees proposed

₱30-B package could draw 33,000 employees

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A "SILVER parachute" being dangled by President Macapagal-Arroyo to induce government employees to retire early is going to cost the government P30 billion or nearly P1 million per taker.

The bonanza is on top of the regular retirement package granted by the Government Service and Insurance System (GSIS).

But the package is not open to public school teachers, policemen and soldiers.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin told the INQUIRER that the initial figures were based on an emerging proposal still being evaluated by her technical staff.

"These are just rough estimates because we still don't know how many will avail," Boncodin said.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said he expected at least 33,000 employees, or 3 percent of the 1.1 million-strong bureaucracy, to avail themselves of the early retirement program.

The retirement package embodies Ms Arroyo's commitment in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) in July "to reengineer government and provide silver parachutes for redundant offices."

"We will downsize the government, motivate excess employees to become entrepreneurs and increase the pay of a lean and mean bureaucracy," the President had said.

Based on ongoing discussions, the P30 billion in the early retirement package would give recipients an exit bonanza depending on their years of service in government—50 percent of salary for each year of service for those with less than 20 years of service; 75 percent of salary for those with less than 40 years, and 100 percent for those with 40 or more years.

The GSIS has allocated P15 billion for the program, while the national government will get the balance of P15 billion from a $300-million World Bank loan.

The average retirement benefit of P909,000 per beneficiary, however, is much lower than the average early retirement package of P10 million for the 1,200 employees of National Power Corp. (Napocor), who represented 13 percent of its total workforce of 9,000.

Napocor, the biggest money-losing government corporation, spent P12 billion for its early retirement package.

P1M FOR EARLY/A21

Amnesty opposed for Oakwood mutineers

By Christian V. Esguerra and Carlito Pablo

GRANTING amnesty to the leaders of the failed Oakwood mutiny will only encourage further military adventurism.

This was the warning aired by Prof. Carolina Hernandez, a presidential adviser and member of the Feliciano Commission which investigated the July 2003 uprising, in the wake of a proposal by a lawyer of the mutineers for clemency for his clients.

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., who spearheaded a congressional probe into the rebellion, suggested a quid pro quo: Make the rebels reveal who their political backers were before pardoning them.

"We should think of the long-term implications of an amnesty," Hernandez told the INQUIRER. "It would only encourage soldiers to stage another mutiny in the future."

"In fact, this Oakwood was partly the result of giving amnesty to those involved in past coup attempts," she said.

Argee Guevara, co-counsel of the six jailed leaders of the Magdalo group, said Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV and company deserved amnesty for their "act of self-sacrifice" in publicly apologizing to President Macapagal-Arroyo for what they had done.

"The welfare of their fellow soldiers, particularly the rank and file, was on top of their agenda when they made the apology," Guevara said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

"Their comrades have long been languishing in jail ... So they decided to assume full responsibility over

AMNESTY/A20

Coup virus alive in flawed democracy

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE HISTORY of military coups in the Philippines from 1986 up to 2003 is strewn with the wrecks of failed rebellions. The apology of the six leaders of the Oakwood mutiny is but the latest testimony to the glaring lesson that coups have failed to gain the acceptance of the Filipino people as a method for political change.

There can be nothing more wrong or complacent than to interpret the apology as an affirmation of the resilience to Philippine democracy or the commitment of the Filipino people to it.

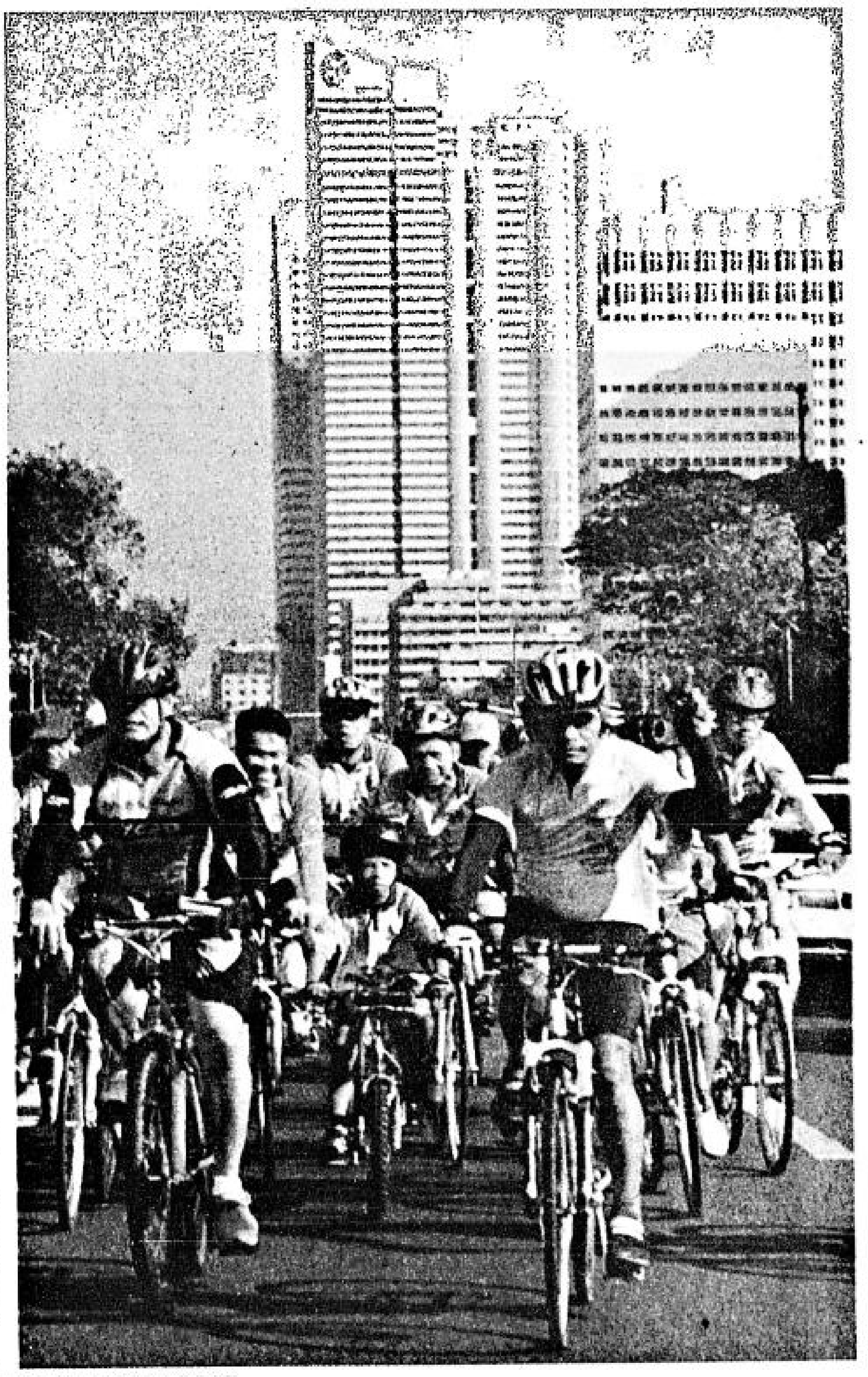
On the contrary, the climb-down of the Oakwood mutineers does not mark the end of the trail of coup-making in this country.

Coups, in the context of Philippine political culture, are a function of weak governments and have festered on the faults of and frustrations over Philippine democracy. Military adventurism should not be written off as a result of the Oakwood fiasco. Its virus remains alive in the bloodstream of a flawed democracy and a corrupt political system, and is likely to flare up again when the system is weakened.

Since July 1986, barely five months after the installation of the "people power" administration of President Corazon Aquino, there have been no less than 10 coup attempts, at least six of which posed grave threats to democratic governments.

When we speak of coups we refer only to overt rebellions, excluding military interventions in political stalemates, such as the withdrawal of

COUP VIRUS/A20

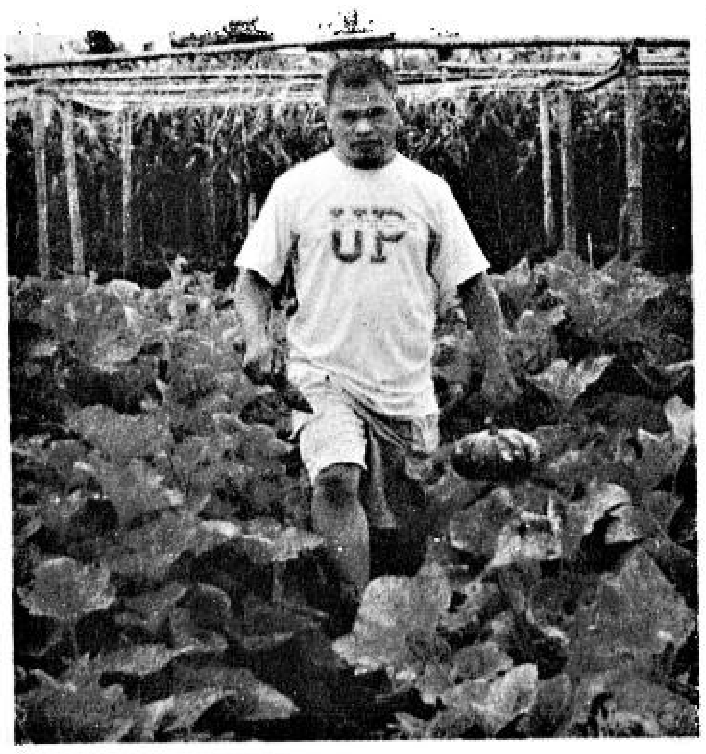


PEDAL FOR PEACE

Cycling enthusiasts join the "Bike for Peace" caravan around Metro Manila, which aims to promote the pursuit for peace as the country celebrates National Peace Consciousness Month.

RAFFY LERMA

Ex-Moro rebs become farming success



FORMER Moro "commander" Kakim Zarudin harvests a squash at his vegetable farm in Polomolok, South Cotabato.

AFP

POLOMOLOK, South Cotabato—Kakim Zarudin barks a string of figures into his mobile phone as he plucks meaty squashes from his garden, savoring his new status as a model entrepreneur.

Zarudin's transformation from a fearsome Moro rebel commander into an agricultural cooperative leader stands out in Mindanao, which has been wracked by more than three decades of insurgency.

Trading his guns for a hundred sacks of corn seeds when the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) signed a peace pact with Manila in 1996, Zarudin and 49 of his men became farmers.

Zarudin's band began the Mapia Multi-Purpose Cooperative that now has control over 100 hectares of farmland around this town.

Washington, Manila's military ally, helped underwrite the peace with the US Agency for International Development's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) program providing seed funds to help former rebels establish to a new way of life.

Zarudin and his men first planted corn that gave them modest incomes to build homes and send their children to school.

It wasn't exactly the instant prosperity the former MNLF rebels were expecting after the peace pact, but it "gave us peace of mind and control over our lives," said Zarudin, a 39-year-old stocky father of five.

He and his men have recently shifted to growing high-value vegetables, diversifying their resources and giving them better yields.

Old habits die hard. With his military bearing, Zarudin runs the hamlet like a drill sergeant and his word is law. His men still call him "commander," and he does not tolerate laziness.

"I run three households myself. I am able to send my children to school because of the earnings in the farm. The cooperative has just bought two vehicles and we supply vegetables and corn to nearby towns and provinces,"

EX-MORO/A22

Pamela stars in vegan ad campaign for Pinoys

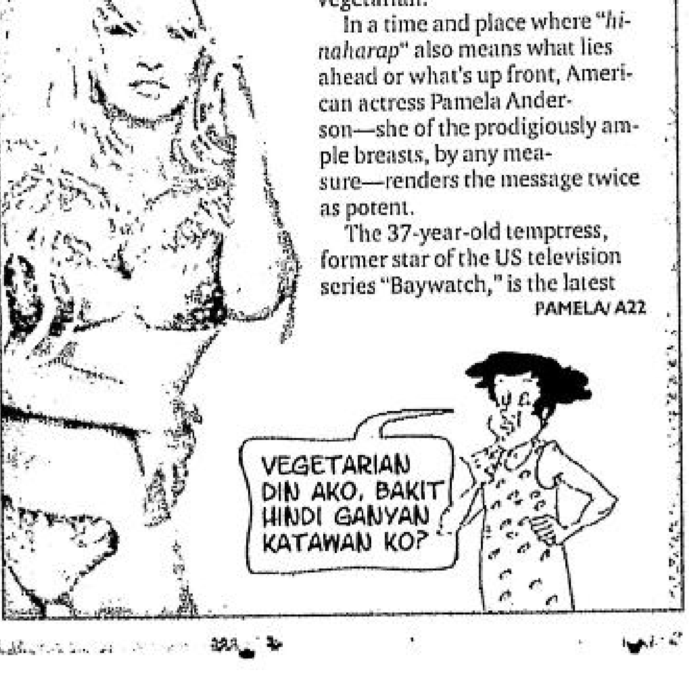
By Jerome Aning

"*MAGANDA ang hinaharap basta* (The future is bright if you're) vegetarian."

In a time and place where "*hinaharap*" also means what lies ahead or what's up front, American actress Pamela Anderson—she of the prodigiously ample breasts, by any measure—renders the message twice as potent.

The 37-year-old temptress, former star of the US television series "Baywatch," is the latest

PAMELA/A22


VEGETARIAN DIN AKO. BAKIT HINDI GANYAN KATAWAN KO?

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Second FrontPage

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/27/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

and the SEAFAR
Lord, Ruler over waves and sea, keep your
blessed hand over all Seafarers. Give me
the strength to lead a Christian life aboard
our Ship. I do not want to disappoint
anyone who may expect help from me
aboard. Keep my family at home in
your care. Even when far away from them
to

THANKS FOR CALM SEAS

President Macapagal-Arroyo offered flowers to the Patron of Seafarers after a Mass celebrated yesterday at the Quirino Grandstand at the Luneta in commemoration of the 9th National Seafarers Day and in honor of the Philippines' thousands of seamen. PCPO MALACAÑANG

After GOCCs, ERC execs' pay scored

By Norman Bordadora
and Abigail Ho

AFTER questioning the scandalously high salaries of top executives of losing government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), solons now want to look into the huge pay of Energy Regulatory Commission officials.

Yesterday, the representative of a militant party-list group urged Congress to conduct a probe into the exorbitant salaries of top officials of the ERC.

"The ERC is neither a government-owned or -controlled corporation or a government finance institution but the salaries (of its officials) are exorbitant," said veteran labor leader and Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday.

Beltran said the ERC, its management and administration needed to be looked into.

Sufficient basis

Beltran noted that the ERC chair currently receives P107,000 in monthly compensation compared to the mere P30,000 the Energy Regulatory Board chair was receiving before it was reorganized into the ERC with the enactment of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

"There is sufficient basis to look into the ERC's management and administration and have the Department of Budget and Management as well as the Commission on Audit examine its records," Beltran said.

ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano Jr., a former congressman himself, however, justified his huge salary.

"That's what the law says. The EPIRA says that I'm entitled to receive the same compensation as the chief justice. As usual, he's (Beltran) ignorant of what's happening," Albano said in reaction to Beltran's statement.

Albano also said that he receives a gross monthly pay of P105,000 and not P107,000 but because of taxes and other deductions, his take-home pay amounts to roughly P70,000 a month.

Entirely different

The ERC chief pointed out that the ERB and the ERC were entirely different bodies, the latter being formed by virtue of Republic Act No. 9136 or the EPIRA.

Beltran also disclosed that the then ERB commissioners were entitled to a monthly pay of only P27,000. But this was substantially increased to P90,000 monthly under the ERC.

The position of executive director which then commanded a P25,000 salary now gets P75,000; director, then P23,000, now P61,000; chief, then P21,000, now P51,000; supervisor, then P19,000, now P41,000; and officer III, then P16,000, now P31,000.

Aside from their basic salaries, Beltran revealed that the ERC chair and directors were now entitled to representation and travel allowances, discretionary funds and enjoyed the use of government vehicles.

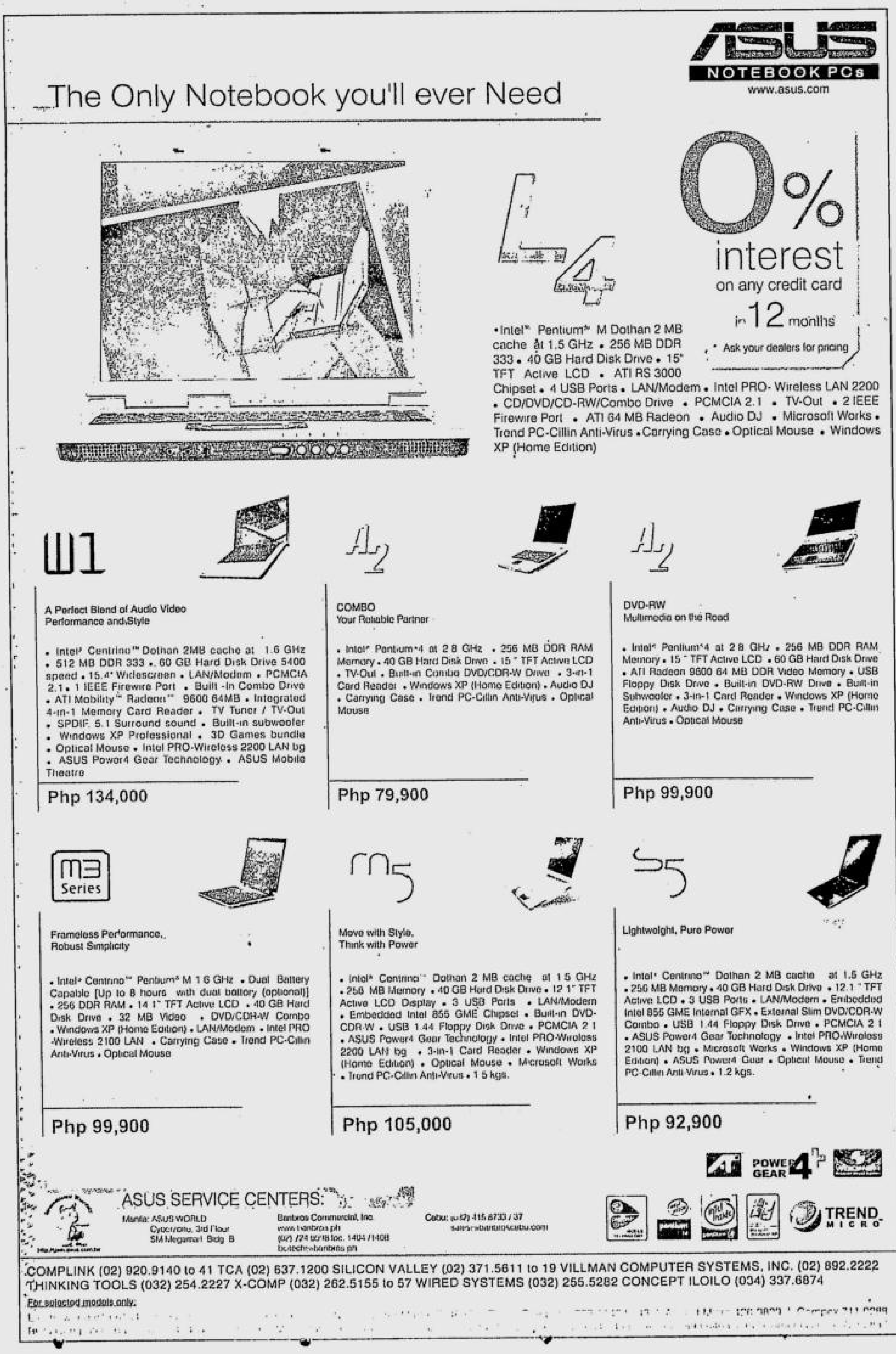
He said the retirement package of the ERC chair and the commissioners involved a hefty lump sum equal to five years' pay and a lifetime pension equivalent to the last salary received.

Qualified after 3 years

"Commissioners Leticia Ibay and Carlos Alindada, whose terms have already expired, are already qualified to receive this package after only serving in the ERC for less than three years. This is aside from the pension they will receive from the (Government Service Insurance System)," Beltran said.

In contrast, he said, regular government employees have to serve a minimum of 15 years to qualify for a GSIS pension.

Beltran also said that the ERC could not be expected to be impartial in hearing petitions regarding the National Power Corp. when two commissioners, Carlos Alcordo and newly appointed Raouf Tan, used to work for Napocor.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US, Asian narcs coming to inspect Cebu drug lab

By Christian V. Esguerra and
Jhunnex Napallacan,
PDI Visayas Bureau

ANTI-NARCOTICS authorities from the United States and five Asian countries have expressed keen interest in the mammoth drug seizure in Cebu on Friday, where a billion pesos worth of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu was discovered in a secret laboratory.

A team of experts from the US Drug Enforcement Agency will arrive soon to examine the chemicals and shabu-making equipment found in three separate warehouses in Mandaue City, said Deputy Director General Ricardo de Leon, head of the police task force against illegal drugs.

Other Southeast Asian countries will also send their own teams to check on the laboratories, one of which yielded P1.3 billion worth of high-grade shabu, De Leon said.

"They know how important the discoveries were, considering the quality of shabu and the sophisticated equipment found," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The raided shabu lab is believed to be one of the biggest such laboratories in the Philippines, if not in Southeast Asia.

De Leon said authorities abroad were wary that the Cebu-based drug traffickers were supplying illegal drugs not only locally but to other countries.

After eight foreigners were arrested in the raid, De Leon said those behind the clandestine operation belonged to a transnational drug syndicate.

Aside from three Filipinos, those arrested included three Chinese, two Malaysians, two Taiwanese and a Briton.

Taking a cue from the raids in Cebu, Hong Kong authorities on Saturday raided suspected laboratories in the Chinese territory.

De Leon said the Hong Kong raid was a follow-up to the Cebu bust.

Officials of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency are coordinating with their counterparts abroad to determine the background of the eight arrested foreigners who were all chemists.

"We have very close relationships with our foreign counterparts, so I have contacted them through phone to verify the background of those suspects," PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido said.

Freedom eludes NPA captive on his birthday

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

A MARINE sergeant held captive by communist rebels for three years now won't be receiving the gift of freedom on his 49th birthday today.

The government is nowhere close to securing the release of Marine Staff Sgt. Jeremias Rosete who was captured, together with three civilian agents, by the Valentin Palomine Command of the New People's Army in Barangay Datal Blao, Columbio, Sultan Kudarat, on Sept. 4, 2001.

Rosemarie Rosete, a daughter of the NPA captive, had appealed to the communist guerrillas to release her father today to enable him to celebrate his 49th birthday with his family.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said the NPA also wants its prisoner to celebrate his birthday with his family "but there's a process that has to be observed before he can be released."

Rosal said that just as in the release of NPA prisoners in the past, there should be a declaration of suspension of military and police operations in the area.

Silvestre Bello III, chief government negotiator in the peace talks with communist rebels, yesterday admitted that the government could not move until the National Democratic Front clarified the status of Rosete.

The NDF represents the NPA and the Communist Party of the Philippines in the ongoing peace talks aimed at ending the 35-year Marxist insurgency in the country.

"We don't know if he's still alive, if he remains a captive or has already joined the communist movement," Bello told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Establishing Rosete's allegiance apparently is crucial before the government could do anything about him, such as securing his freedom.

'Things to get worse in Iraq ahead of polls'

By TJ Burgonio and Blanche S. Rivera

WORKING in Iraq in the coming months will be much more risky as the United States expects Iraqi insurgents to step up attacks in Baghdad and elsewhere in the run-up to the national elections next year.

The Philippines had raised the alert level for over 4,000 Filipinos working in two US military camps in Baghdad and warned them against abduction and "opportunistic terror attacks."

"I think there will be more violence in the run-up to the elections. I think President Bush has said that," US Embassy Charge d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli said in an interview on Saturday.

"It would be false to think things are gonna get better because if the elections are held in a relatively peaceful manner, then it undermines the insurgency. They must work viciously hard to try to cause trouble," he said.

Mussomeli said he expected the insurgency to "lose its credibility" after the Iraqis cast their ballots in a peaceful election.

The Iraqis are set to hold their first-ever elections in January next year, more than a year after Saddam Hussein fell into the hands of the US-led coalition forces.

Mussomeli also said that it was "unfortunate" that Manila was standing pat on its earlier decision to ban Filipinos from working in Iraq. He disputed Philippine officials' observations that the stepped-up hostilities around Baghdad were affecting security inside the two US camps there.

Ambassador Roy Cimatu, special envoy to the Middle East, said last week that the government would keep the ban in the wake of "accelerated bombings and kidnappings" in the war-torn state.

Government officials, he said, were increasingly becoming worried over the safety of the estimated 4,400 workers inside Camps Anaconda and Victory, as well as the Philippine Embassy staff in Baghdad.

Evacuating more than 4,000 overseas Filipino workers in Iraq would be "the greatest security and logistical nightmare" the government would face, according to Anglo-European Services International, the biggest placement firm for overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East.

Anglo-European media consultant Manny Geslani gave this warning after Malacañang issued a heightened alert status for Filipinos in Iraq and ordered preparations for a possible evacuation.

"Where will the government charter more than 20 planes willing to fly into Iraq? If by land, will the US forces secure the land transportation of these workers? And are the workers willing to return home?" he said.

Geslani said the workers they had deployed vehemently opposed the idea of evacuation, saying there was nothing the country could offer them if they went home.

He added that OFWs in Iraq had even refused to take the mandatory two-week leave granted by their US employers every six months for fear that they would be stranded in the Philippines due to the deployment ban.

Many had opted to receive the cash equivalent of their vacation leaves or go to nearby Dubai.

Some 600 workers from Iraq who spent their vacations in the Philippines early this year were caught in the deployment ban imposed in July 7, 2004. They have been asking the government to allow them to leave the country.

At present, there are no commercial flights to Baghdad from Kuwait, Dubai and Jordan.

Embrace the mainstream, envoy advises RP Muslims

COTABATO CITY—The Bangladeshi ambassador to the Philippines has urged Mindanao's Muslim population to give up "alienism" and embrace mainstream Filipino social life to attain peace in the South.

Bangladeshi Ambassador Munir-Uz-Zaman also advised the people in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to "take the path of education."

Knowledge, he said, is the "most important tool" in developing potential human and natural resources.

Uz-Zaman said the ARMM provided the "institutional mechanism" for Mindanao Muslims to attain this goal after the Sept. 2, 1996 Peace Agreement was brokered by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) between the Philippine government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

The Bangladeshi envoy and nine other ambassadors from oil-rich Muslim countries were here Saturday for the presentation by ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin of the region's development programs—its executive agenda for the next 12 months.

Hussin told reporters that businessmen were still afraid to invest in the region, thinking it was unsafe.

On the contrary, he said, the ARMM's crime rate of two percent was the lowest in the country, citing the latest Philippine National Police third quarter statistics.

The other envoys who attended were Ambassadors Salem Adem (Libya), Mohammed Aljowaid (United Arab Emirates), Iftikhar Hussain Kazmi (Pakistan), Saber Abdel Kader Mansour (Egypt), Jalal Kalantari (Iran), Ibrahim Al-Meghaiseeb (Qatar) and Mohammed Ameen Wal (Saudi Arabia).

The Manila embassies of Indonesia and Malaysia were represented by their charges d'affaires Alexander Laturiw and Mahinder Singh, respectively.

All the ambassadors condemned acts of terrorism attributed to a Muslim group of extremists.

Aside from the 52-member OIC, most of the 10 ambassadors represented member-nations of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), which has funded or continues to fund at least two highways and bridge projects in Mindanao—the Davao City-Compostela Valley road and the Pagadian-Zamboanga City highway. *Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Correction

IN SATURDAY'S issue, a Second Front Page story—"PNP imposes gun ban in Abra"—misstated the area of jurisdiction of Chief Supt. Rowland Albano, the head of Task Force Abra. Albano is the police director of the Cordillera Autonomous Region (CAR)—not the Caraga region.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

Probe my performance, Garcia dares critics

By Michelle V. Remo, Cynthia D. Balana and Carlito Pablo

GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System (GSIS) president and general manager Winston Garcia has challenged Rep. Crispin Beltran (party-list Anakpawis) and his other critics to form a committee of management experts to formally assess his performance as head of the state pension fund.

"If the result of the assessment would say that my management of GSIS is not above par, then I will quit my post," Garcia said in a telephone interview.

The GSIS chief proposed that the body be composed of four or five professors from the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University and Asian Institute of Management.

Responding to allegations he had mismanaged the GSIS, Garcia said the financial health of the agency was proof enough of his ability to run the pension fund.

"I helped GSIS generate a net income of P37.5 billion in 2003. It is the highest in the 66-year history of the GSIS. If that is mismanagement, then I don't know what the term means for them," he said.

Items resolved

Garcia said that following the completion of the GSIS computerization program, all applications for retirement, death and other benefits by GSIS members, including application for salary loans, had been resolved and paid in record time.

He also cited the creation of the E-card, where applicants for salary loans could learn in three minutes whether their applications for salary loans would be approved or not.

Also, the GSIS had "faithfully executed" its mandate to protect all government properties through reinsurance, as it did with the National Power Corp. assets worth billions of pesos, he said.

As a result, he said, Napocor was able to save at least P500 million in insurance expenses, a substantial gain in view of the power firm's current financial distress.

Four congressmen, meanwhile, yesterday dared Garcia to make good his threat to file a complaint against them before the House ethics committee.

Resolution filed

"Go ahead, please do," said a common statement by Reps. Rolex Suplico (Ind., Iloilo), Marcelino Libanan (NPC, Eastern Samar), Benasing Macarambon (NPC, Lanao del Sur) and Eduardo Veloso (NPC, Leyte).

The four had earlier filed a resolution calling for an inquiry into the alleged mismanagement and misuse of funds by Garcia and other ranking GSIS officials.

Suplico, for one, also raised allegations about missing paintings worth millions of pesos, which the state pension fund had previously bought.

Pressured into transaction

Garcia responded by threatening to drag them before the House ethics committee and zeroing in on Veloso's alleged previous attempt to pressure him into a supposed business transaction.

Garcia said that Veloso and his wife had wanted the GSIS to drop its reinsurance contract for Napocor and transfer this to private insurance companies supposedly connected to the Velosos.

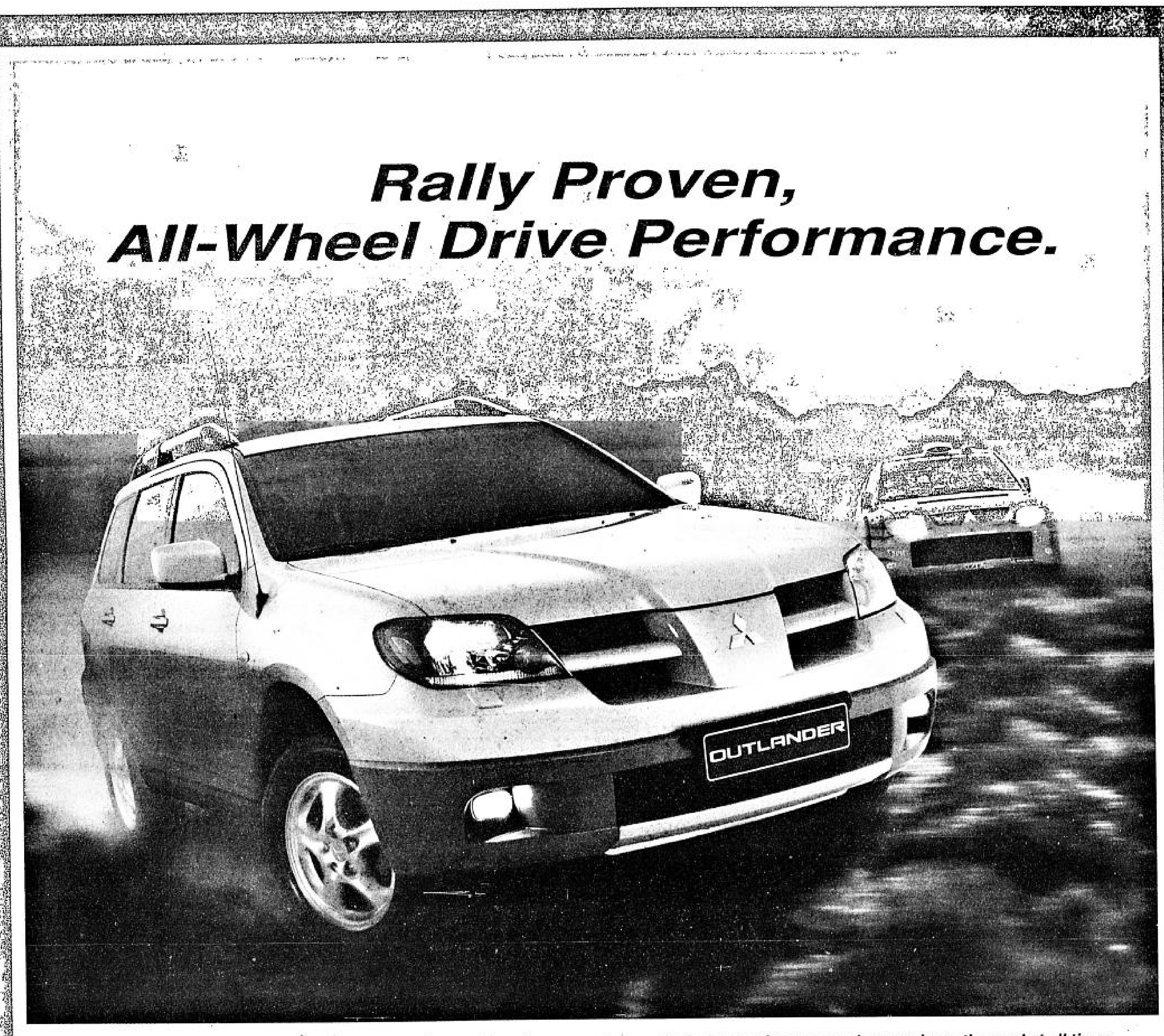
In the congressmen's joint statement, Veloso denied having pressured Garcia.

The four congressmen said the issues they raised were legitimate, as the ones aired by disgruntled GSIS employees.

"Instead of maligning House members and unfairly accusing them of involvement in the reinsurance business, Mr. Garcia should answer point by point the charges leveled against him," Macarambon said.

Libanan noted that nothing was heard from Garcia regarding fund mismanagement and the missing artworks until congressmen came out with these issues.

On the missing paintings, Garcia said they were lost prior to his joining the GSIS in 2001 and that it was during his term that the loss was reported. On his alleged failure to liquidate cash advances amounting to millions of pesos, he said records of the Commission on Audit would prove that the accusations were false. *With Norman Bordadora*



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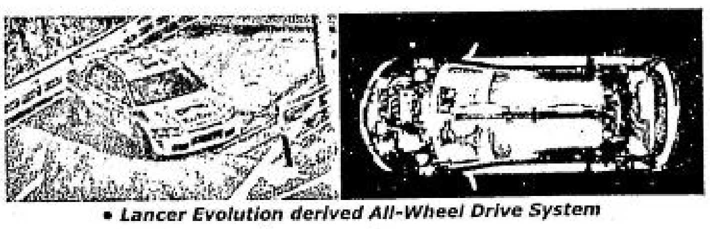
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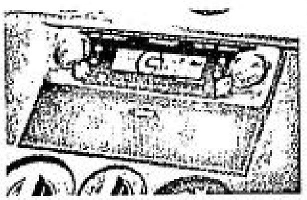
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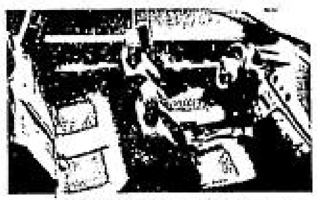
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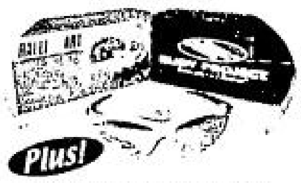

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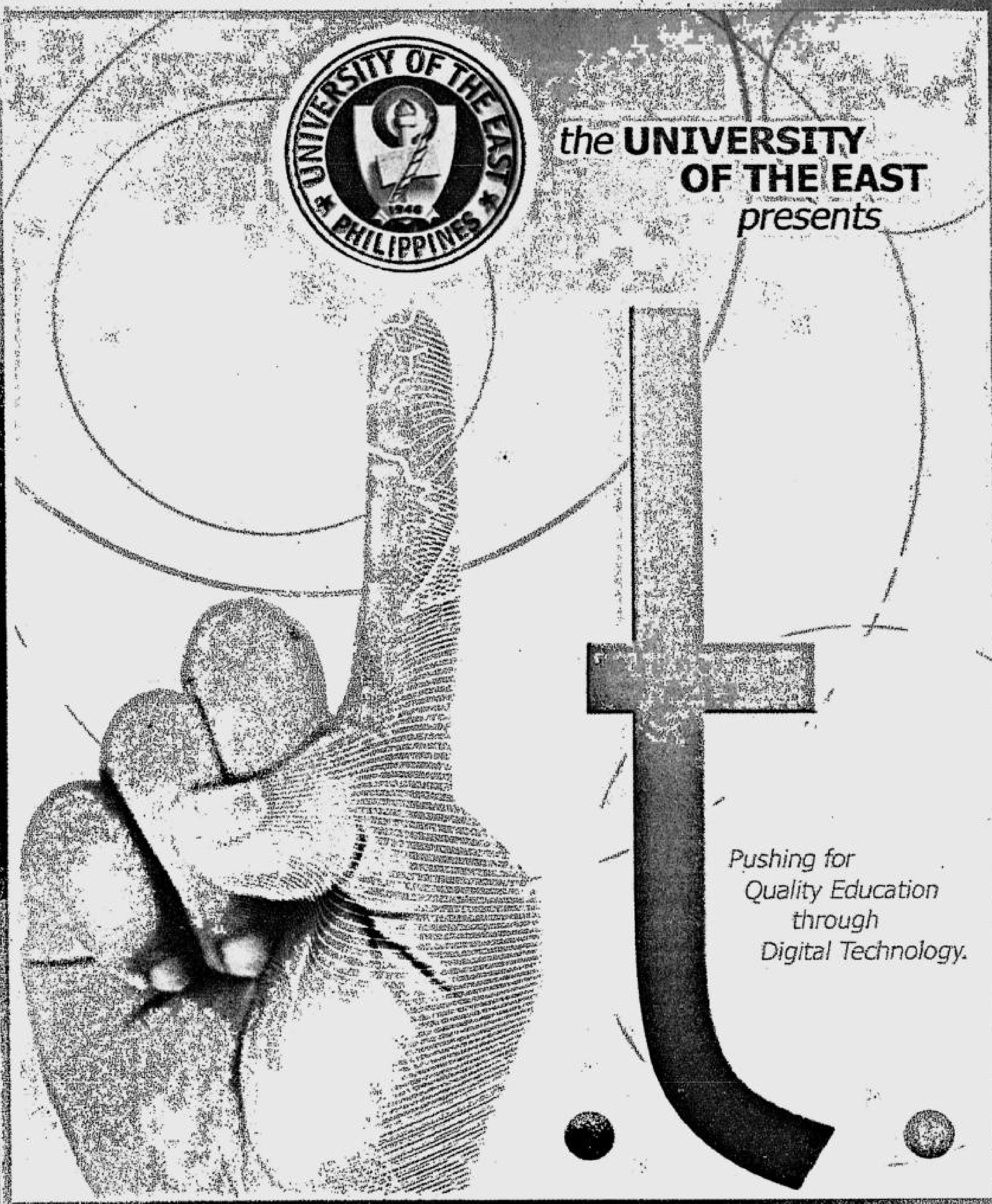
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JOSE B. Bernal of Parañaque City died on Sept. 24 at the age of 82.

He is survived by his wife Presentacion, children Lando, Mila, Tess, Nestor, Winnie, Cecille, Liza, Brenda, Cielo and Rolly, and other relatives.

His remains lie at the Holy Trinity Chapel on Sucat Ave. in Parañaque. Interment will be on Sept. 29 at the Manila Memorial Park on Sucat Ave. at 2 p.m.

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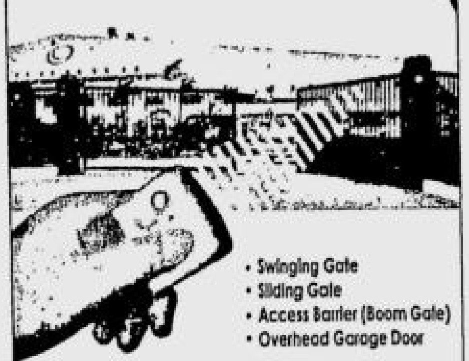

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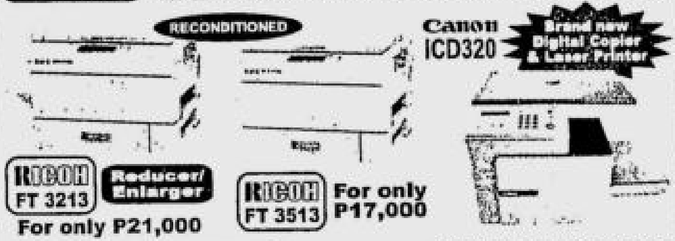

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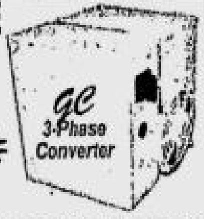

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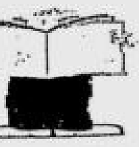

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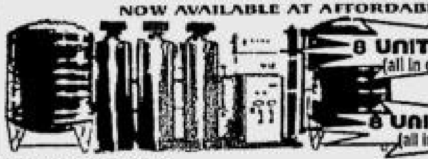

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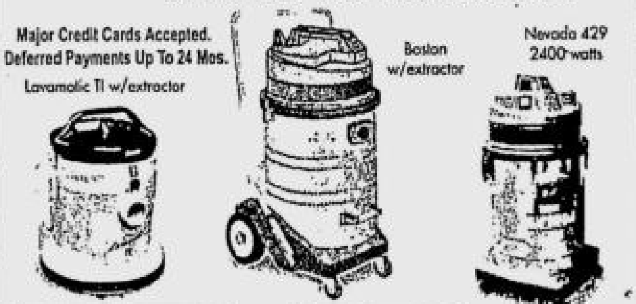

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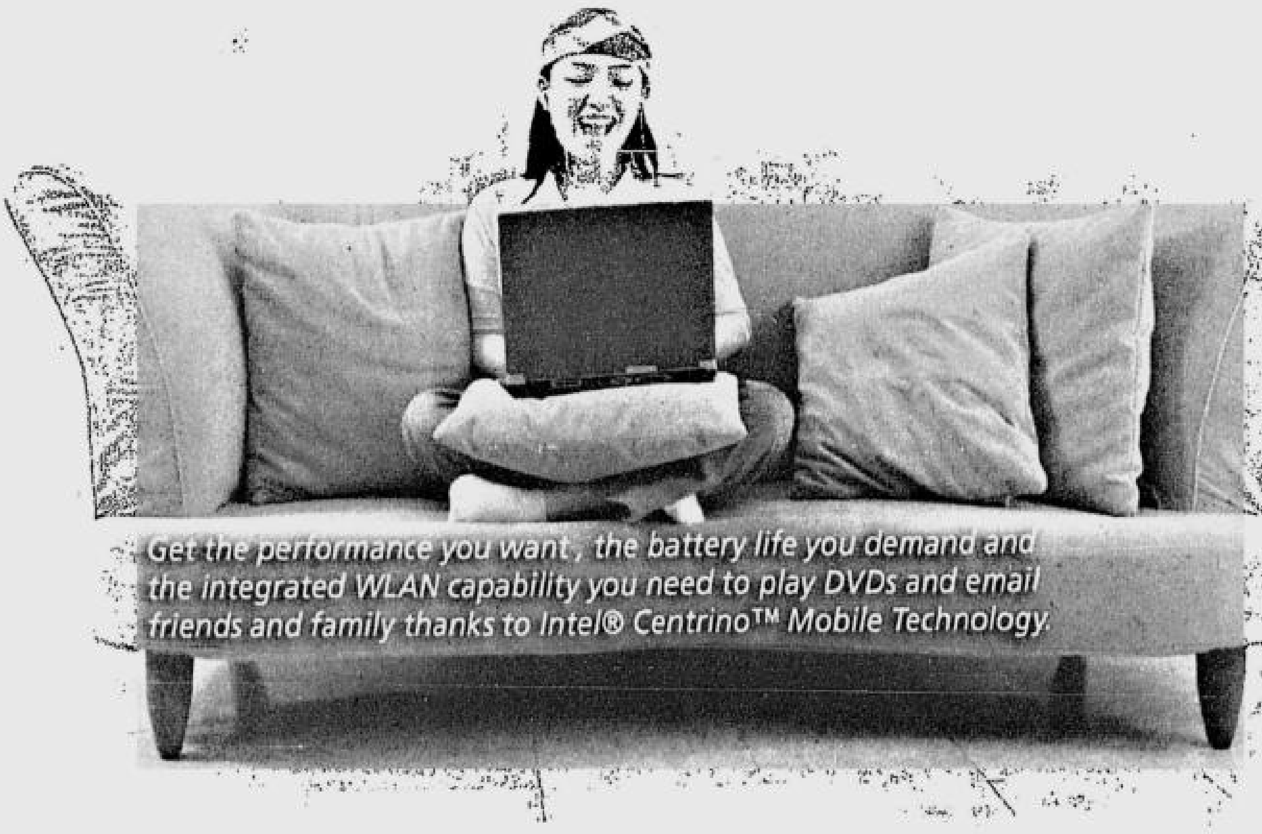
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Time, fund lack blamed for erroneous textbooks

By Dona Pazzibugan

LACK of funds and time have been blamed for the errors and lapses in school textbooks.

Officials of the Department of Education interviewed by the INQUIRER admitted that evaluators of textbooks hired by DepEd to screen proposed textbooks have little time and are paid a pittance for the thorough job required of them.

For instance, can an evaluator check a 316-page Asian history textbook for errors and lapses in just two days?

This was the case with "Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap," a high school history textbook approved by the DepEd that is now under scrutiny for errors.

Marian School supervisor Antonio Calipjo Go had claimed to have found a total of 431 errors in the textbook.

Fine-tooth comb

But Dr. Teofista Vivar, the book's lead author, countered that the book would not have gotten DepEd's approval if it were riddled with errors.

"We went through it with a fine-tooth comb," the 75-year old graduate school professor said.

"Asya: Noon, Ngayon at sa Hinaharap," published by SD Publications, passed DepEd evaluation thrice in 1997, 1999 and 2001. It is now the only textbook used by sophomore public high school students.

Although the Instructional Materials Council Secretariat, the DepEd agency in charge of textbook evaluation, has set stringent standards for rating textbooks, the actual evaluation lacks sufficient time and funding to be extensive.

Per book

IMCS director Socorro Pilor said this evaluation process took effect in 1997.

DepEd recruits evaluators from the private sector.

Considered as experts in their fields, they decide if a proposed textbook passes the DepEd's standards.

Three evaluators are assigned a maximum of three books competing for the same subject and grade/year level. While evaluating the books, they must stay in a safehouse for five to six days.

Within that period, the evaluators should have read each book line by line, rated each according to DepEd standards, made marginal notes in the books and compared notes with the other evaluators to come up with a final team rating.

As a team, the three evaluators decide whether to recommend a book or not. For their efforts, each evaluator is paid P1,500 to P1,600 per book.

The findings of the three evaluators are then reviewed by one person, who is also recruited from the private sector. The reviewer goes over the books evaluated and validates the findings. He is paid P1,500 per day until the review is completed.

The identities of the evaluators and reviewers are kept secret from the publishers.

Unscrupulous

But some unscrupulous publishers would still seek out the evaluators' "safehouse," usually hotels, to try to influence the results.

During the evaluation process last year, the DepEd reportedly housed the evaluators outside Metro Manila to keep them away from publishers.

In Congress, Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr. yesterday asked the government to compel suppliers of the so-called "wow mali" textbooks to correct the factual errors contained in the textbooks.

Republic Act No. 9184 or the Procurement Reform Act, which Andaya authored, automatically puts a warranty on all government purchases, including textbooks, and requires a replacement or refund for faulty or defective goods.

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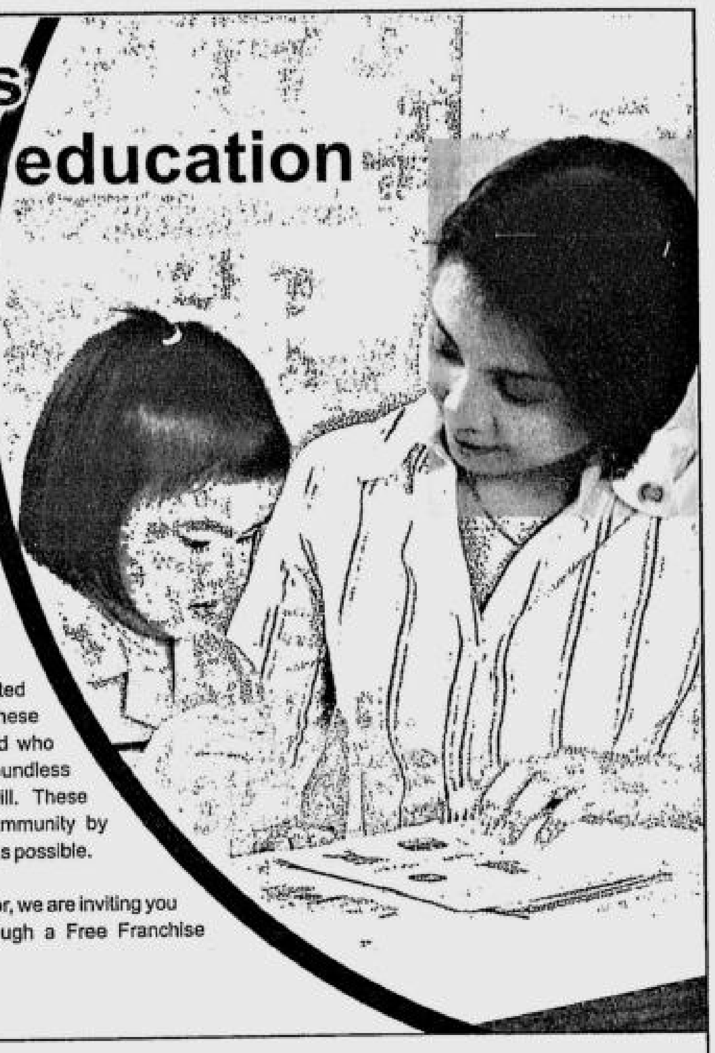

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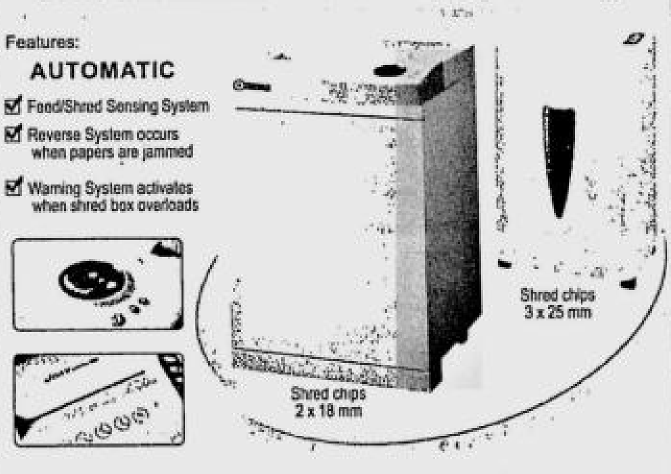

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Illegal recruiters victimize 13 nurses

By TJ Burgonio

DON'T deal with illegal recruiters.

This was the warning aired yesterday by Acting Foreign Secretary Jose Brillantes to Filipino nurses wanting to land jobs in Jordan.

Brillantes said that 13 nurses who managed to gain employment in hospitals in Jordan with the aid of illegal recruiters faced a slew of problems such as summary dismissal and illegal pay deductions.

The 13 nurses were hired by the Arab Medical Center in Amman through the Sam Seven Manpower Inc., which did not process their employment contracts with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

Shortly after starting their jobs, the nurses trooped to the Philippine Embassy in Amman, complaining that two of them had been summarily dismissed and their employers had made illegal deductions from their salaries.

"In light of the action of the hospital and the uncertain status of the Filipino nurses in Jordan, six of the 13 Filipino nurses are now requesting to be repatriated to the Philippines," Brillantes said in a statement.

The nurses, he said, were apprehensive over their tenure, particularly the issuance of their Iqama, the residency and working permit issued by the labor departments of Arab states to foreign workers.

Brillantes also reminded nurses that only graduates of seven universities in the Philippines accredited by the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education were allowed to work in the kingdom.

The accredited schools are De La Salle University, University of the Philippines, University of Santo Tomas, St. Louis University in Baguio City, Silliman University in Dumaguete City, University of San Carlos in Cebu City and Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

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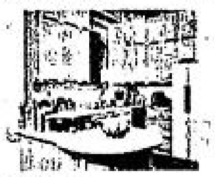

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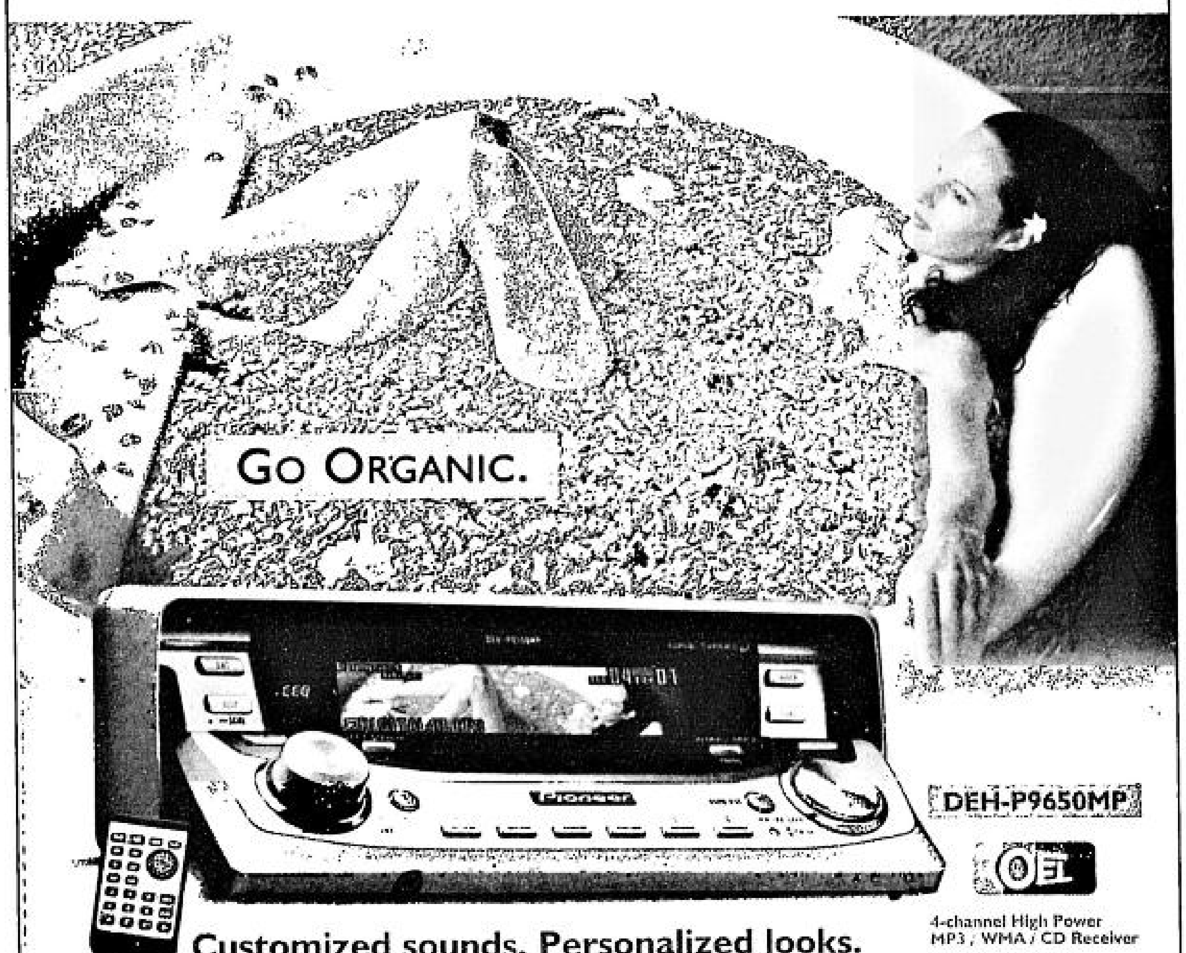

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Iraqi girl pleads for UK hostage's life

LONDON—An 11-year-old Iraqi girl who lost a leg and 17 members of her family during last year's war urged kidnappers on Saturday to release a British hostage they have been holding for nine days under threat of death.

Zeynab Hamid Taresh, who is in Britain to have an artificial leg fitted, said the plight of 62-year-old Kenneth Bigley reminded her of seeing kidnappers seize two of her school friends on the streets of Iraq's second city Basra.

"I want them to release him so he can return to his family, just like I want my friends to be able to return to their families," she told reporters.

Bigley and two American colleagues were seized from their home in Baghdad last week by militants led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the United States' prime enemy in Iraq.

The militants have already executed the two Americans—Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley—after their demands to have all female prisoners released from Iraqi jails were not met.

The kidnappers are threatening to kill Bigley too, but have set no deadline.

An Islamist website, which has posted unsubstantiated claims about hostages in the past, said on Saturday Bigley had been killed. The British Foreign Office said it believed the website lacked credibility and could not confirm such a claim.

Taresh survived a US-British bombing raid in March 2003 which killed her mother, two brothers and another 14 members of her extended family. She was badly injured and had her right leg amputated.

A British journalist working in Iraq, Lee Gordon, brought her to London with the consent of her family and helped organize her treatment. She was fitted with a prosthetic limb in July and has been undergoing rehabilitation in Britain since then.

Earlier this week, Gordon explained to the girl the plight of Bigley.

"When she heard of Ken Bigley's story she said she wanted to do something to help," Gordon said.

He spoke to Bigley's brother Paul, who asked if she would be willing to make a televised appeal for his brother's release.

Taresh agreed and was due to speak to Arabic television station Al Jazeera later on Saturday in the hope that the kidnappers would be watching, Gordon said.

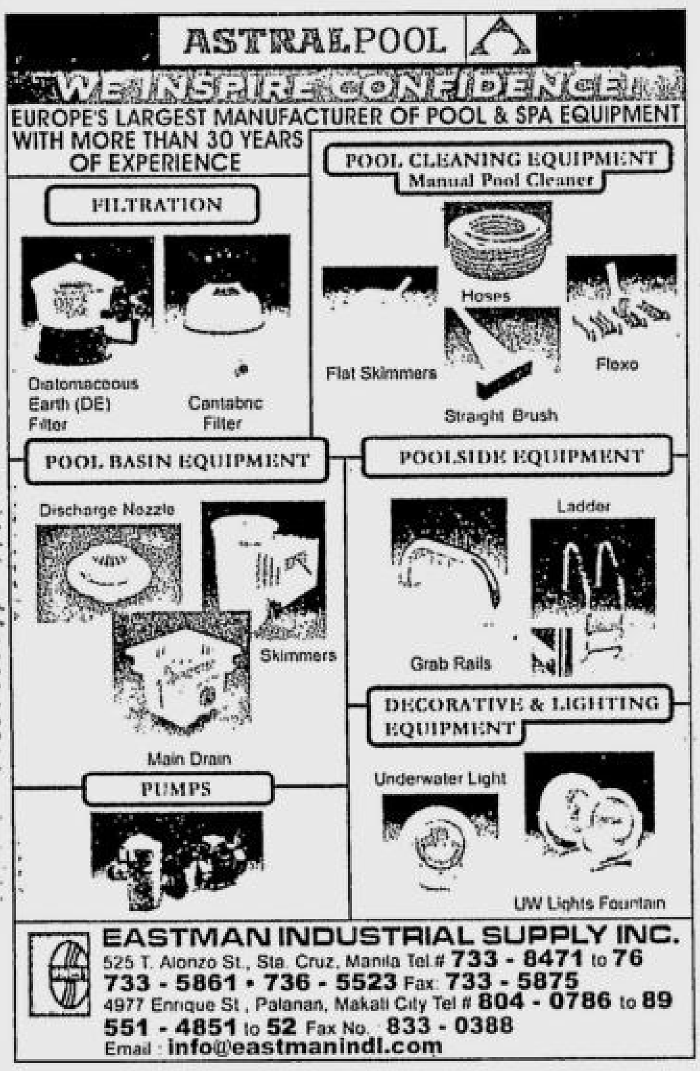
The girl, who walks with a distinct limp and is still getting used to her new limb, said the hostage crisis had rekindled memories of seeing her own friends abducted.

Speaking through a translator, she described how, shortly after she had left hospital in Basra following her amputation, men had seized two of her school friends and bundled them into a car. They have not been seen since, Gordon said.

Bigley's abduction has dominated media coverage in Britain this week, spawning a host of appeals for mercy from his family, the government and leaders of the country's 1.8-million-strong Muslim population.

Paul Bigley has been particularly vocal, pleading for his brother's life and urging Prime Minister Tony Blair to do more to help.

The British government said it had distributed 50,000 leaflets in Baghdad, at the request of Bigley's family who want to exhaust all means possible to save him from Zarqawi and his militant followers. *Reuters*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Major illnesses influenced by gender, research shows

By Lindsey Tanner

CHICAGO—Beyond the tired cliches and sperm-and-egg basics taught in grade school science class, researchers are discovering that men and women are even more different than anyone realized.

It turns out that major illnesses like heart disease and lung cancer are influenced by gender and that perhaps treatments for women ought to be slightly different from the approach used for men.

These discoveries are part of a quiet but revolutionary change infiltrating US medicine as a growing number of scientists realize there's more to women's health than just the anatomy that makes them female, and that the same diseases often affect men and women in different ways.

"Women are different than men, not only psychologically (but) physiologically, and I think we need to understand those differences," says Dr. Catherine DeAngelis, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

DeAngelis says she has made it a mission to publish only research in which data are broken down by sex unless it involves a disease that affects just men or women.

In recent months, two medical textbooks billed as the first devoted to gender differences in all areas of medicine, not just reproductive medicine, were published; a widely cited Journal of the AMA report reemphasized the neglected fact that lung cancer, not breast cancer, is the No. 1 cancer killer among women; and the American Heart Association announced the first-ever heart disease prevention guidelines tailored specifically for women.

And this fall, the office of Surgeon General will issue its first-ever report on osteoporosis. The crippling bone-thinning disease disproportionately affects women, who lose the bone-protecting effects of estrogen at menopause. The report will emphasize prevention—and that it's not just a woman's disease—20 percent of patients are men, said Wanda Jones, director at the US Department of Health and Human Services.

The gender-based medicine movement isn't an effort to diminish the importance of breast cancer, but is meant to emphasize that "we have more than one body part, folks. Up until now ... that awareness just hasn't been there," said Sherry Marts of the Society for Women's Health Research.

Until the 1990s, scientists frequently excluded women from medical research. It was largely out of concern over effects on reproduction but also because of a long-standing belief that men and women "were biologically the same except for their reproductive organs," Marts said.

However, recent discoveries suggest that genes, hormones and lifestyle may be behind many of the differences. For example:

- Heart attacks in women frequently don't involve chest pain and may involve more vague, flu-like symptoms.
- Women who don't smoke appear to be more susceptible to lung cancer than nonsmoking men. Women also tend to get lung cancer at younger ages than men, and they appear to metabolize cancer-causing substances differently than men.
- Women are less likely than men to get oral cancer.
- Women are more prone to autoimmune diseases, including lupus, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis, in which disease-fighting mechanisms mistakenly attack the body's own tissues.
- Some AIDS-fighting medicines appear to metabolize more quickly in men than in women, who may require gender-specific doses.
- Women's symptoms for ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease—debilitating intestinal diseases that affect men and women—vary considerably each month, requiring frequent medication adjustments.

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FOURTH THIS SEASON

Hurricane 'Jeanne' slams Florida

STUART, Florida—Hurricane Jeanne sent wind and huge waves crashing ashore as it slammed into storm-weary Florida early Sunday, forcing thousands into shelters and tearing part of the roof from a hospital. The storm made landfall just weeks after Frances ravaged the same stretch of coast, and hurled debris only recently cleared from earlier hurricanes.

It was the state's fourth hurricane of the season—an ordeal no state has faced since Texas in 1886.

About 2 million people, from near the state's southern tip to the Georgia border, were urged to evacuate as Jeanne's sustained wind strengthened to 193 kph. The Category 3 storm came ashore on the state's central Atlantic coast and was expected to turn to the north.

"Yesterday I was hoping we wouldn't lose power again," said Lynn Tarrington, who was leaving her Lake Worth home near the water early Saturday. "Now I'm hoping I have a house left when I come back."

The storm made landfall near the southern tip of Hutchinson Island about 8 km southeast of Stuart, where palm fronds whipped amid waves of horizontal rain. Debris flew and crashed through deserted streets, making a steady roar.

A hospital lost part of its roof, said Tom McNicholas, an emergency management spokesperson in Martin County. Dozens of patients at Martin Memorial Hospital North in Stuart were moved to other floors, but no injuries were reported.

Elsewhere in Stuart, part of a condominium roof collapsed. One person was rescued. In Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, several people in homes were rescued during the relative calm of Jeanne's eye. No one was injured, but the residents "didn't think they were going to make it through the storm," said Capt. Nate Spera of St. Lucie County sheriff's department.

On Sunday morning, Jeanne was centered about 16 km west of Stuart. It was moving west and slightly to the north at 21 kph. Top sustained winds were 193 kph, up from 161 kph late Friday.

Waves of 7.2 meters were reported ahead of Jeanne and were moving toward the coast, where six-foot storm surges were expected. Powerful swells knocked pieces of mobile homes out to sea on the central coast. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Thailand frets over bird flu

BANGKOK—Thailand was scrambling Sunday to determine whether bird flu struck five people in a northern province as the World Health Organization expressed concern that human-to-human transmission of the lethal virus had occurred. An intense investigation has focused on Kamphaeng Phet province, where a boy and a girl who died this month of severe pneumonia after coming into contact with dying chickens are listed as suspect bird flu cases. The 11-year-old girl's mother, who lived near Bangkok but traveled north to visit her daughter in hospital and then attend her funeral, returned to the Thai capital where she too fell ill and died. Her death is also on the suspect list. Laboratory tests on the three fatalities, as well as on the girl's aunt and the aunt's son who are hospitalized with severe pneumonia, were being conducted to detect the virus that has already killed 28 people in Asia since December. WHO's acting Thailand representative, Kamara Rai, told AFP Saturday after studying information from Kamphaeng Phet that it appeared the mother and the aunt did not come into contact with sick chickens: "From the existing data ... we are suspecting human-to-human transmission," he said. *AFP*

15 killed in Fallujah strikes

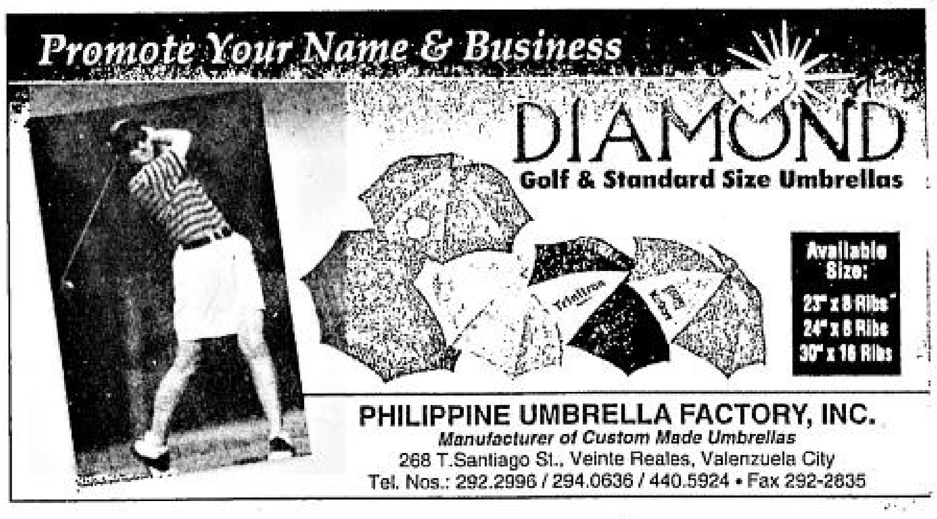
FALLUJAH, Iraq—At least 15 people were killed and 33 wounded in two separate US air strikes Saturday on suspected hideouts of a militant group in the Iraqi rebel city of Fallujah, as two British Muslim leaders arrived in Baghdad in a bid to save the life of a British hostage. The latest air strike occurred at about 10 p.m. and targeted what the US military called a meeting place in the northern part of Fallujah for operatives of presumed al-Qaida chief in Iraq Abu Mussab al-Zarqawi, whose Tawhid wal Jihad (Unity and Holy War) group is blamed for a string of suicide bombings and kidnappings in the country. *AFP*

Taiwan mid-range missiles

TAIPEI, Taiwan—Taiwan has developed and successfully test fired surface-to-surface missiles that could hit coastal or interior Chinese cities, a newspaper reported on Sunday. The missiles, dubbed Hsiung-feng 2A and Hsiung-feng 2E, have ranges between 150 to 300 kilometers, the mass-market Liberty Times said, citing unidentified military sources. The new weapons are similar to cruise missiles, which can be programmed to seek out and hit land targets, the paper said. *AP*

Taj Mahal's 350th year

AGRA, India—One of the world's most famous monuments, India's Taj Mahal, celebrates its 350th birthday on Monday with a cultural extravaganza that hopes to pay a fitting tribute to the historic symbol of love. The celebrations, to be held at a famous Mughal fort near the white marble mausoleum in northern India, will start with a release of pigeons and a kite-flying contest before moving to a classical music concert at sunset with the Taj as the backdrop. "This is the start of a six-month celebration aimed at drawing tourists to Agra and the Taj Mahal," D.K. Burman, a senior government official organizing the festivities in the town of Agra, said. Every day, up to 15,000 people file past the manicured lawns of the imposing structure, built by Emperor Shahjahan as a testament to his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, who died in childbirth. *Reuters*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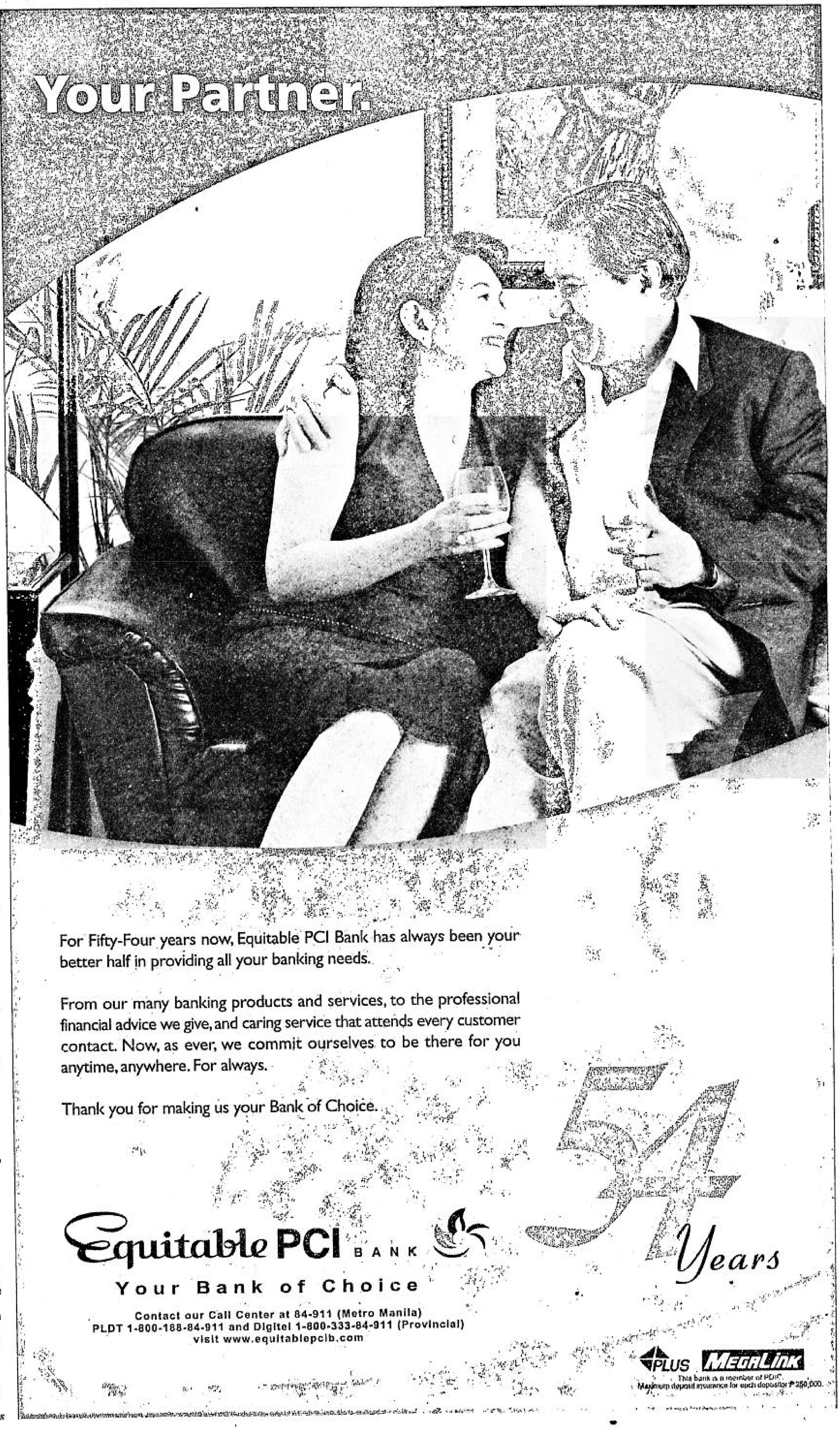
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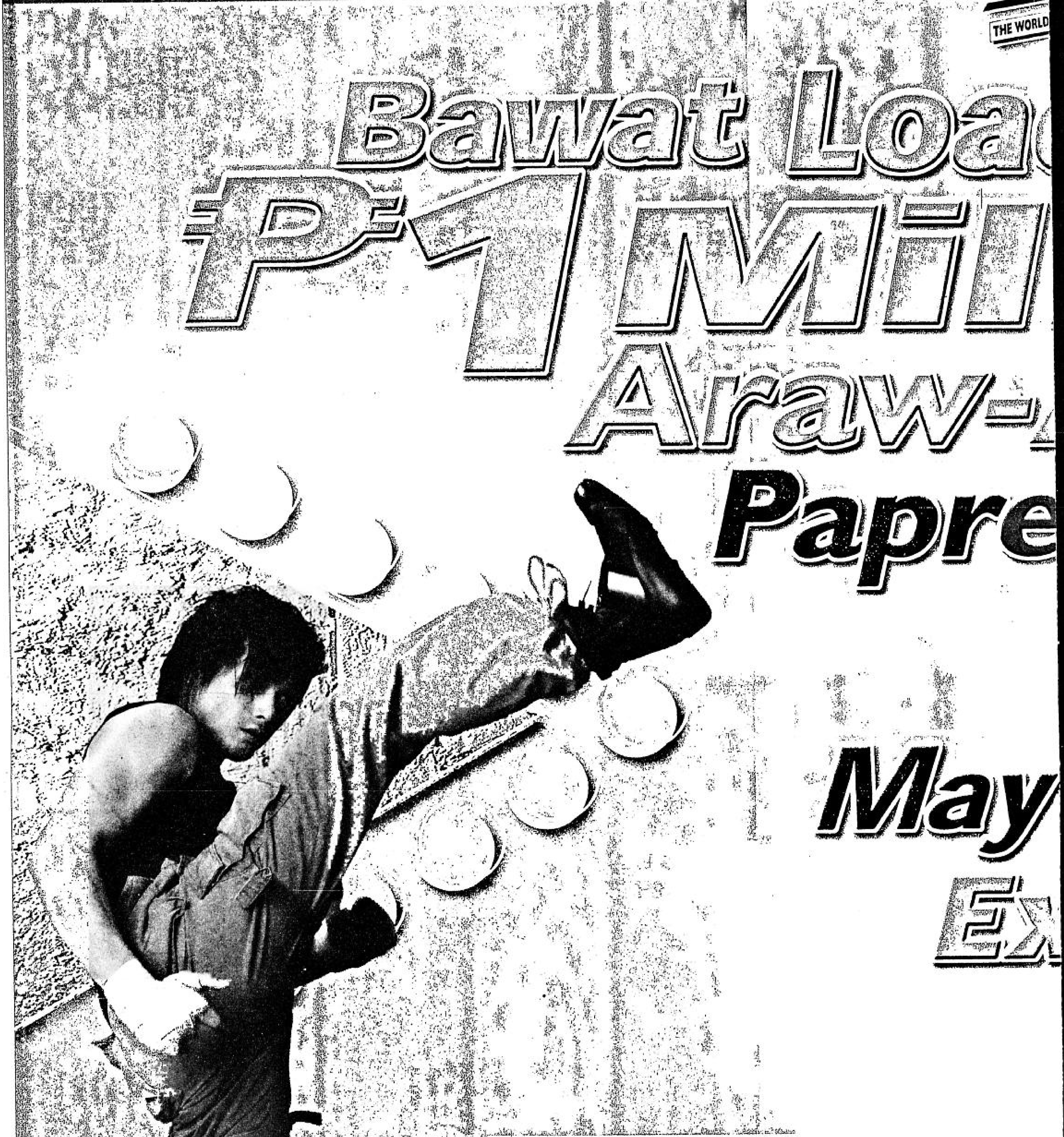
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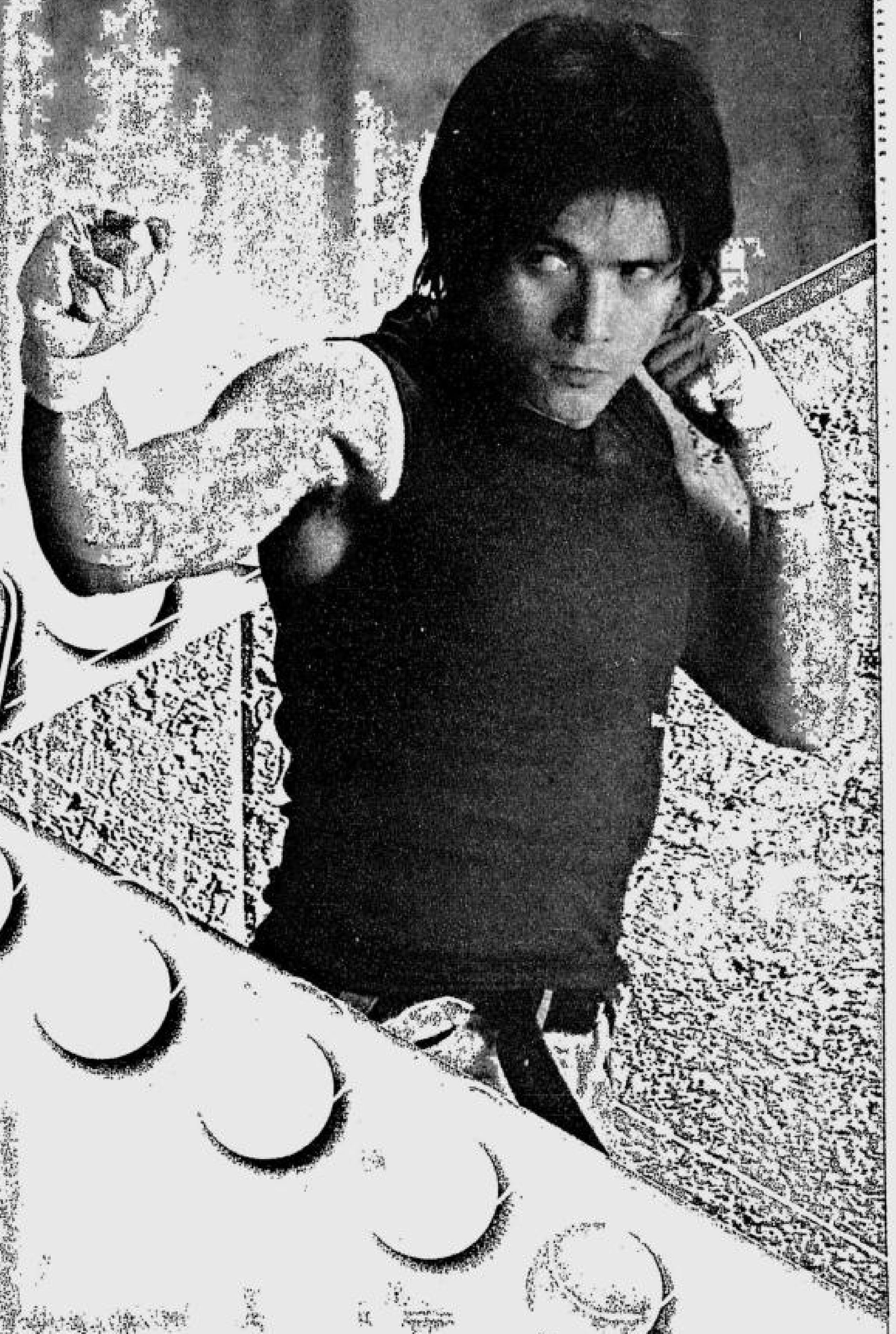

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The apology

EDITORIAL

WE would like to believe that, by apologizing to the President, the leaders of last year's Magdalo mutiny have helped the nation take "a great step toward healing." That is the way "our Commander in Chief" welcomed their apology, and that is the way the mutiny leaders described their act of contrition.

But we cannot be certain, at least not yet. We grant that, as the six leaders themselves admit, they were naïve, but we cannot be certain that they are not disingenuous.

Even the mutiny leaders' un-consulted co-counsel, Homobono Adaza, waxed skeptical. "I can only understand the apology as consistent with 'The Art of War' by Sun Tzu," Adaza said. "The No. 1 rule there is deception."

Are the mutiny leaders truly on the level? The statement from Army captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo, Marine captains Nicanor Faeldon and Gary Alejano, and Navy lieutenants James Layug and Antonio Trillanes IV describes the takeover of the Oakwood hotel in Makati City on July 27, 2003 as nothing more than a venting of grievances.

"This we did in our honest though naïve desire for change," their statement read. "However, as succeeding events have shown, the Filipino people did not agree with our means of expression. As a result, we humbly faced the consequences of our actions and moved on."

As the basis for a dramatic apology, this series of statements is astonishingly weak. Like actors with insufficient motivation, the junior officers mouth lines that come across as unconvincing. On the most basic level, their words fail even to suspend our disbelief.

Essentially, this is what the Magdalo leaders are saying: We tried something last year, but because the people did not support us, we apologize. By implication, they are saying: If the people had supported us, we would have nothing to apologize for.

Democracy check: Their action was wrong not because it lacked popular support but because it lacked the democratic impulse. Frustrated with the shortcomings of Philippine society, the Magdalo leaders decided to take the law into their own hands. The original plan was to seize power, and it was only because they were compromised that the attempted coup degenerated into a mutiny.

There is, then, a degree of mental dishonesty in the phrasing of the apology.

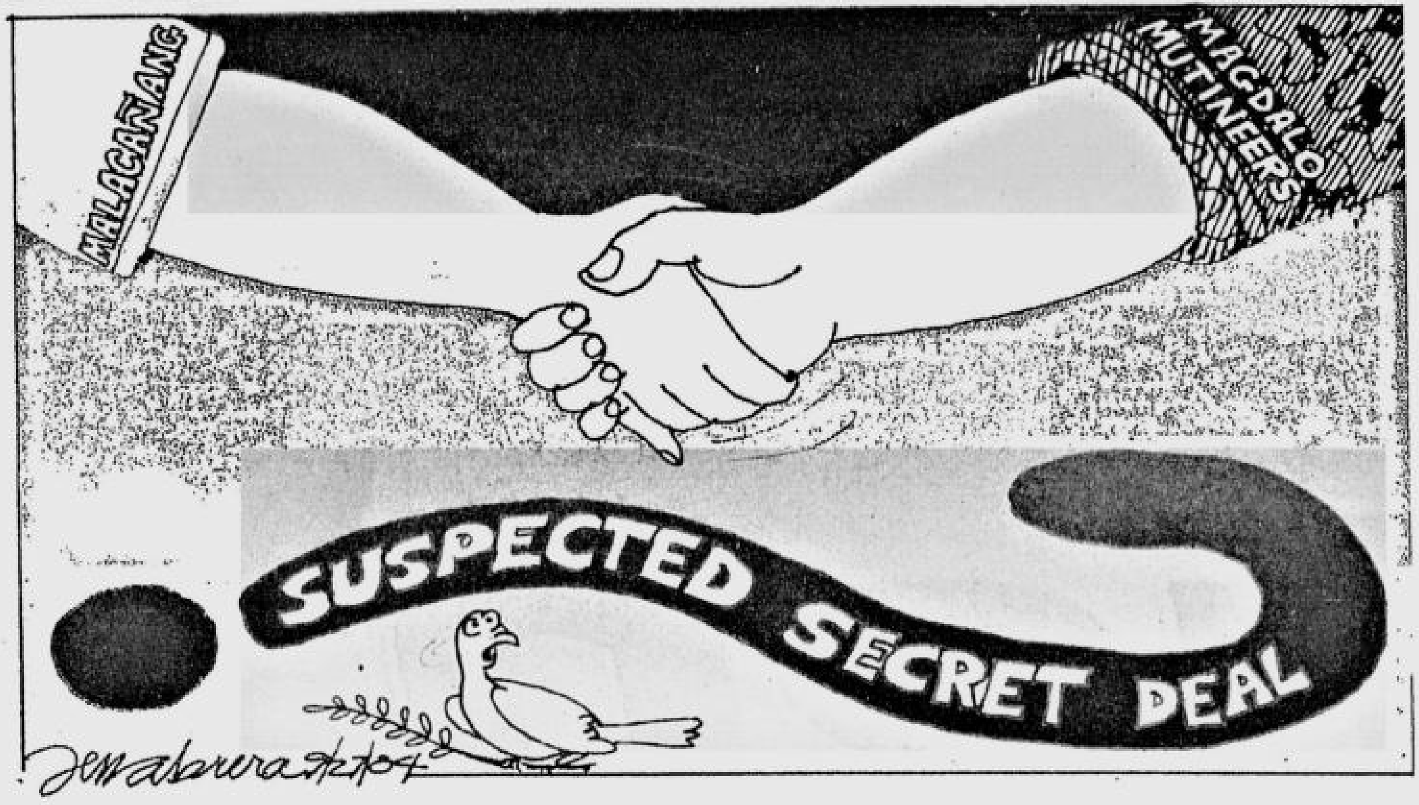
It is possible that it was written that way because of legal constraints. The Magdalo leaders wanted to take the next step to "finally complete our nation's healing process," without undermining their defense in the military and criminal cases pending against them. To be sure, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye has already taken the mutineers' lawyers out of the equation. "According to the six officers," Bunye said, "their action was purely voluntary. Nobody ordered them and we believe they did not consult their lawyers about this matter. They just discussed this among themselves and they understood the implications of what they were going to do, and did it."

It is also possible that the Magdalo leaders made the crucial distinction between their "desire for change" and the people's disapproval of their chosen "means of expression" as a face-saving measure. A Malacañang official, who did not have the courage to be named, attributed the leaders' about-face to the financial factor. "One year without income is certainly a big problem. If they do not apologize, what will happen to them and their families?" the official asked.

The skepticism that met the news of the apology cuts both ways, however. The President's determination to pursue the cases against the mutiny leaders has been impugned, and questions about a "secret agreement" have been raised. Filipinos may be ready to forgive, but not necessarily to forget. In 1986, the Manila Hotel coup plotters were given 20 push-ups as punishment; more coup attempts followed. And since 2001, the Arroyo administration has built a reputation for saying one thing and doing another. It is only natural that the President's acceptance of the apology raised eyebrows, too.

The administration has its task cut out for it: to prosecute the cases against the mutiny leaders until the end, while looking after the soldiers who may have been misled and pushing the reforms the military needs.

Thus, for the President as much as for the Magdalo leaders, the basic principle is simple and Kennedyesque: sincerity, always, is subject to proof.



The chocolate contract and the Masinloc bidding

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IF you have a sweet tooth, and you are not diabetic, not overweight, and does not easily break out with pimples, eating chocolate is one of the most delightful indulgences, *'di ba*? So why is chocolate bringing a lot of trouble to some public officials and businessmen? Because of one cardinal sin: greed. Not for chocolate but for money.

Last Sept. 17, this column dwelt on the conflict over a contract to supply Duty Free Philippines with chocolate snacks and candies. DFP had awarded the contract to Eastern Duty Free (EDF). Another supplier, Winning Touch, made a higher offer. EDF matched this higher offer and clinched the contract. Winning Touch and the DFP Employees Union protested and filed charges of graft against then Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan and DFP General Manager Michael Kho. There was no public bidding, they said.

It turns out that William Tieng, owner of Winning Touch, himself has several contracts with DFP which he got without any public bidding either. Two congressmen filed resolutions calling for investigations not only of the chocolate contract but all the other contracts of DFP, including those awarded to Tieng.

Last week, the camp of Tieng sent a letter commenting on that column. In fairness to him, I am now reporting the contents of that letter.

The issue is neither the contracts of Tieng nor his "alleged monopoly" of the operations at Duty Free, the letter said. And it is EDF that will monopolize the chocolate business at DFP.

Chocolate products represent about 40 percent—worth about $40 million or P2.2 billion—of DFP's annual sales. At least 20 companies now supply chocolate products to DFP. In the new contract under question, only one, EDF, will henceforth be the sole supplier. The 20 other companies will lose their business, which means lost jobs for their employees, the letter said.

"Why fix something that is not broke?" it asked. "The new contract will earn less for the government than what it is earning under the present setup.

"Despite the amended DFP-EDF contract (to match Winning Touch's superior offer) which increased the government take by P180 million a year, DFP would still lose P336 million a year, according to the complaint of the DFP employees."

Besides, the contract was rushed; it was a midnight contract, the Tieng camp said. Pagdanganan's replacement had already been announced, and yet he approved a major contract. Prudence dictates that he should have allowed the new secretary, who was to take over in a few days, to review and sign the contract. Yet the PTA board pushed through with the meeting to ratify the contract on Aug. 25, when half of Metro Manila was under water. The President declared a calamity by lunchtime and sent home employees in both public and private offices. Why the hurry then? Besides, the letter added, EDF, just like Winning Touch, supplies other products to DFP.

* * *

Another government contract will be bid out this October, and it is bound to be a headache, too if it is not handled correctly. This is the sale of the 600-megawatt Masinloc power plant in Zambales, the first part of the privatization of the mega-losing National Power Corp.

The sale of all of Napocor's assets is expected to raise between $4 billion and $5 billion, not even enough to pay for its accumulated debts of $7.2 billion. But Napocor has to sell them in a hurry because it loses an average P100 billion a year!

The government badly needs foreign investors to privatize Napocor—and put a stop to its bleeding—as there is not enough local capital. A number of foreign investors have qualified for the bidding, among them, Marubeni of Japan, Kepco of Korea, YNN of Australia, YTL of Malaysia, and Atlanta-based Mirant Philippines.

The lone local bidder may be the First Generation Holdings of the Lopez group.

So what is the problem?

In a pre-bid conference last Sept. 1, the potential foreign investors denounced the bidding guidelines drafted by the government.

They denounced a "right to match" provision which states that any winning bid by a foreign company may be matched by a Filipino-owned company, which will then be proclaimed the winner.

This rule, said the foreign investors, is inequitable and gives preferential treatment to a Filipino company. It is grossly disadvantageous, unfair and discriminatory to foreign investors, they said.

But wasn't that the same rule given by the Supreme Court in the sale of Manila Hotel? A Malaysian company won the bidding but a Filipino group, led by businessman Emilio Yap, matched the bid and was declared the winner. The Malaysians protested but the Supreme Court backed the Filipino company.

But there is a difference between the Manila Hotel and the Masinloc power plant. The Manila Hotel is clearly part of the national patrimony and should remain in Filipino hands, the tribunal said. The Masinloc plant is not.

Foreign investors must be given a level playing field, otherwise they would not bother to invest here at all. Remember that they spend a lot of money and resources to conduct studies on the property they intend to buy. When the right to match is given to a preferred third party, that party doesn't have to spend or make any studies at all. It just matches the highest bid, knowing that the bidder made painstaking studies to arrive at the price. That effectively results in a virtual handover to the Filipino firm. The foreign investor loses his investment on the due diligence it made, and the Filipino company profits from the foreigner's pains and investments. That is unfair. That sends the wrong message to foreign investors and jeopardizes government efforts to privatize Napocor.

What's wrong with the picture?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

PRESS Secretary Ignacio Bunye defends the Oakwood mutineers' act of contrition thus: "It takes courage to admit one's fault and come to the mainstream of public interest." What exactly he means by "come to the mainstream of public interest," I leave him to explain. But he is right to say admitting one's fault and apologizing for it are an act of courage. Neither is easy to do.

You need not go farther than President Macapagal-Arroyo herself to see that. To this day, she has not apologized to Acsa Ramirez.

Ramirez, we may recall, was the whistleblower whom she mistook for one of the whistle-blown and identified as such in a press conference, to Ramirez's chagrin and shame. Rather than admit her mistake, GMA stuck by it. Reynaldo Wycoco, apparently construing an admission of presidential fallibility as a breach of national security, thence took it upon himself to hound Ramirez and pin the rap on her. The ruse failed and eventually he gave it up. But he never apologized. He just asked everyone to forget about it and move on.

Well, Ramirez hasn't forgotten. And the reason this country has never moved on—or has moved only backward—is that it keeps trying to forget iniquity.

So is the Oakwood mutineers' apology to their commander in chief, therefore, an act of courage?

Not at all.

This is so **not** because they compromised their principles, as their lawyer, Homobono Adaza, said: "I have been taken for a ride. I thought they were willing to stand for what they believed in and what they saw was happening to the country." As he further pointed out, the apology was gratuitous. The cases against 290 of the mutineers have been dismissed by a Makati court and 28 of the remaining 31 soldiers are out on bail.

What would have made their show of contrition and apology an act of courage was if they had issued it not just to the AFP (and by extension to the commander in chief), but to the Filipino people. Their crime was not first and last against the AFP and the commander in chief, it was first and last against the people.

Their statement acknowledges it tacitly: "Last 27 July 2003… we went to Oakwood Hotel to vent our grievances. This we did in our honest, though naïve, desire for change. However, as succeeding events have shown, the Filipino people did not agree with our means of expression."

They are right: We did not agree with their "means of expression" even if—as one of Pepe Miranda's surveys shortly after the event showed—most of us agreed with their premises. Those premises included corruption in the AFP and Malacañang, a corruption that went past pillage and took on the aspect of monumental deceit. The pillage had to do with their commander in chief and their generals pocketing the money that should have gone to the foot soldiers, particularly those stationed in Mindanao. I would learn later that it had to do with the P3 billion or so Erap set aside for the Cafgu and other elements that would pacify Muslim Mindanao after the soldiers pulled out. The money disappeared, compelling the soldiers to extend their duties under adverse conditions. The foot soldiers were almost literally on foot: their boots had given out on them.

The deception had to do with Malacañang wagging the dog, or inventing a war against terror in Muslim Mindanao for its own reasons. The mutineers went on to charge GMA and Angelo Reyes with engineering the bombing of a Davao wharf.

Their premises may be right, but none of it is solved by a mutiny or coup. I myself wrote several columns condemning the Oakwood takeover despite refusing to join the ex-civil society leaders who kept calling on us to throng to the Edsa Shrine to fly to the aid of their favorite president while it was happening. The mutineers' charges might be true, but the mutiny did not solve them, it merely made them worse. And it added insult to injury, a group of military officers, well-meaning or not, presuming to speak on behalf of the people without any mandate.

Their apology is owed us first and last, not GMA or the AFP. What makes their decision to prostrate themselves before their superiors a farce rather than an act of courage is that it turns governance and its challenges into something played out only by a few men and women. It turns a crime against the people into a crime against a person, even if that person is the President, reposing the judgment to forgive or prosecute, to forget or punish, solely in her hands.

It does one other thing, which is to free GMA from apologizing herself to a people she has deeply wronged. More than ever, I am convinced that what made the mutiny ultimately possible was not that GMA was an unelected President, but that she had militarized the country through her "war against terror." That was what stoked the fires of military restiveness after more than a decade of relative calm. Grievances alone, however deep, do not make mutinies or coup attempts feasible. Only a militarized culture does. Only the expectation that the people—and not quite incidentally the American government—would accept the outcome does. It is not dire finances alone that have driven the mutineers to discover the virtue of humility, it is the complete disappearance of GMA's war rhetoric, most especially after she too was given a lesson in humility by Angelo de la Cruz's captors. But GMA has not apologized for all of this. Nor is it likely she ever will.

What's wrong with the picture of the mutineers saluting their commander in chief in demonstration of renewed loyalty is what has always been wrong with the bigger picture called "Philippine democracy." It is a democracy without the people.

Clear thinking by GMA

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo did right in accepting the apology of the six military officers who masterminded the Oakwood mutiny as a first step toward "national healing." But it's also good that she has made clear to the nation that they are to continue with their court martial. This is only fair and proper for these officers, the military service and the Filipino people who suffered from their rebellion.

In the wake of the officers' apology, there's talk of pardoning them by executive fiat or granting them amnesty which, as pointed out by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel, needs ratification by Congress. The Palace emphasized that a pardon can only be granted after a conviction. In fairness to the officers, however, in their meeting with the commander in chief, they did not ask for leniency. In fact, they reiterated their readiness to face the consequences of their action.

I'm glad the former rebels have been enlightened. But I still submit that if they are to be pardoned, government should also very seriously consider separating them from the service.

* * *

At the Manila Overseas Press Club forum, Speaker Jose de Venecia outlined a 12-point strategy program aimed at creating "new wealth" to "outpace current requirements" and build a "major reserve of resources in the future." He said this program—a sequel to his earlier "747 Economic Action Plan" that the Cabinet adopted in 2002 as a major part of its economic development blueprint—seeks to build "an economic superstructure." What's striking about it is that many components are very down-to-earth and "doable"—provided there's adequate funding. But if projects are well-thought out, funding would be available.

* * *

For instance, he recommends a major reclamation program in Manila Bay, Cebu, Mindanao and Northern Luzon where lands could be auctioned to raise hundreds of billions of pesos. He cited how massive reclamation projects provided "major stimuli" for the economic miracles of Hong Kong and Singapore, and became the badly needed expansion sites for industrial and commercial complexes, housing projects, airports, seaports, etc.

Ironically, JDV's suggestion comes in the wake of the recent Senate blue ribbon committee hearing where Sen. Miriam Santiago lambasted former President Fidel Ramos for allegedly giving Reghis Romero free access to a reclaimed land in Smokey Mountain. But it's a fact that reclaimed lands in Hong Kong and Singapore were auctioned off and became very valuable. For instance, Hong Kong's Chep Lap Kok Airport sits on totally reclaimed land in Lantau island.

* * *

JDV also recommends a major reforestation program to cover all the bald mountains throughout the country. He said a reforestation investment of $100 million could translate into $4 billion worth of wood sales in 10 years. This could also provide incomes for tree farmers and solve ecological problems such as the deadly and costly floodings and the lack of drinking and irrigation water. One problem, though, is how to police the funds. Later in the Aquino presidency, a massive reforestation program was undertaken by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, but nothing much came of it as many funds reportedly were siphoned off to private pockets.

* * *

JDV also stressed the creation of a "national infrastructure corporation" that would build airports, seaports, railways, dams, irrigation systems and expressways initially funded with proceeds from the sale of government bonds, with the rest to be undertaken through a "second generation" of BOT agreements. He cited how the "first generation BOT" brought RP more than $26 billion in new infrastructure at no cost to the government. JDV noted the multiplier effect—amounting to 16.6 times of what's invested—of jumpstarting the housing construction sector, and the boon to be gained from pushing our tourism industry. He also cited the need to push the information technology sector in order to build a "knowledge economy." He noted that McKinsey & Co. recently identified 11 white-collar services that mature economies, such as the United States, can profitably outsource, and which RP is well-positioned to supply. The estimated worth of the demand for such services is projected to reach $180 billion by 2010.

I have been looking into the IT industry and I'm happy to note that IT services offered here include the call-center business, which has grown from less than 1,000 seats in year 2000, to about 18,000 seats to date, with more than 80 percent of its clients US-based; and the medical transcription business, which now has some 40 firms servicing US hospitals and clinics. These data, however, are just surface indications of an immense potential for RP.

* * *

In last Saturday's column, the national budget when Ferdinand Marcos fled in February 1986 should have read P482 million, instead of P82 million. Marcos' budget was indeed small compared to today's P907 billion budget, but what's often forgotten was that his regime left hundreds of millions in behest and crony loans.

* * *

The Carmelite Monastery of St. Therese in Gilmore Avenue, QC, announces the Solemn Triduum of Masses in honor of the French-born saint popularly known as the "Little Flower of Jesus," 6 p.m. on the following days: Sept. 29, with Rev. Fr. Mariano Agruda III, OCD, as celebrant and the participation of the OCD Seminary choir; Sept. 30, to be celebrated by the Rev. Daniel Patrick Huang, S.J., with the San Jose Seminary choir, and Oct. 1, the Feast of St. Therese, with Rev. Honesto Ongtioco, D.D., as celebrant, and the San Carlos Seminary choir. The blessing of roses and veneration of St. Therese's relic will follow after the Masses. Her devotees are cordially invited.

Prospects for would-be lawyers

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

THE MORE than 4,000 or so hopefuls who survived the gruelling bar examinations held last September must have, by now, heaved a sigh of relief. As in previous years, a frenzied atmosphere enveloped a long stretch of Taft Avenue fronting De La Salle University, site of the annual bar examinations since 1995, as the survivors exited the gates where awaited boisterous throngs of relatives, faculty members and fraternity and sorority buddies.

Now, the killing game of waiting begins. As a majority, if not all, of those who went through that gauntlet (for some, more than once) will attest, any one of them may, in the months leading to the announcement of the results, suffer fits of anxiety. But what is certain though is that only a thousand new lawyers, more or less, will troop to the Philippine International Convention Center by April next year and take their oath before a full court special session of the Supreme Court. And pretty soon, these new *compañeros* and *compañeras* will join the legal profession.

Most of the new lawyers will start looking for stable jobs either in the government or in the private sector. Many others will probably eye the so-called big-ticket law firms in the hope of landing slots for associate positions. Many will also be drawn into the "hit and miss" world of solo or loose partnership legal firms (some Davao lawyers call it "guerrilla lawyering"), gravitating mostly to the big cities and capital towns.

Yet, nowadays, with the worsening economic crunch, many lawyers in private practice—except maybe for those who are in the big law firms—would attest that they, too, like the majority of Filipinos, feel the brunt of the country's worsening economic lot. As payments of legal fees come few and far between, it is not surprising to learn that some lawyers are preparing for a career shift, like enrolling in nursing courses, with employment abroad as a final goal.

If the lawyers themselves feel the economic pinch, how much more the litigants, particularly those from the middle class and the poor majority?

Thus, in the ruckus over the pork barrel, the fat salaries received by government bureaucrats and the proposed new taxes allegedly to stave off an Argentina-type financial collapse, it is disheartening to note that even access to our judicial system, especially for the poor, is becoming more expensive.

Effective last Aug. 16, court fees were increased dramatically, ranging from a low of 25 percent to as high as 4,900 percent. While the Supreme Court had already suspended the increase in three areas—marriage fee, compulsory counter-claims and filing of motions—I agree with my colleagues in the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) led by Pablito Sanidad, and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) headed by national president Jose Cadiz, that the move is not enough.

The IBP board of governors recently petitioned the high court to declare as unconstitutional Republic Act 9227 which allows hikes in court fees to fund the additional compensation of the members of the judiciary. Ironically, while the said law grants additional compensation to judges and justices, it mandates that the pay hikes must be paid with funds taken from the legal fees, not from the national budget which is sourced from taxes.

As pointed out by Cadiz, only the "very rich will escape the harsh bite of these new legal fees and will surely hurt" the not so rich, the middle class and the majority poor Filipinos.

Sadly, despite the bloated budget allocated to the two other co-equal branches of government—the executive and the legislative—the judiciary, with about 25,000 employees, receives only 0.9 percent of the government's annual budget. Still, I am hopeful that the high court will resolve in earnest the IBP petition.

* * *

Another offshoot of the economic crisis that has adversely affected the legal profession can be felt in the fewer number of private practitioners joining the ranks of the so-called alternative or public interest lawyers. A case in point is the Sept. 21 launching in Davao City of the Pieta Legal Resource Center for Women and Children spearheaded by women and child rights advocates. To paraphrase an adage, "many were invited but only a few"—at least 15 lawyers—responded. With sky-high court fees and the many hidden costs of litigation, pro bono lawyering apparently is now less appealing to lawyers, including the new ones, who sometimes, if not often, have to shoulder the court fees because some clients, including NGOs, just do not have the funds for litigation. To those who responded, they may have been driven there by a vocation, but—as the saying goes—reality bites. And alternative or public interest lawyers may yet become another "endangered species."

* * *

COME AND JOIN US: On Oct. 7-9, 2004, lawyers in Mindanao will convene in Davao City for a three-day convention and Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) seminar. Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Justice Reynato Puno, House majority leader Prospero Nograles, Senate majority leader Francis Pangilinan and legal luminaries from all over the country will grace the affair.

New beginning

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

TOMMOROW, the new Ayala Museum will be dedicated to the Filipino people. The ceremony marks the culmination of the festivities commemorating Ayala Corporation's 170th year of existence.

The museum opens its doors to the public on Oct. 1. It might be useful to give readers a preview of some of the highlights of the new museum, particularly its inaugural exhibitions.

First of all, there's that old reliable, the dioramas. In the new museum, however, the dioramas will be part of something larger, called the Diorama Experience, an encounter with the dioramas of Philippine history that have been a prominent attraction of the museum since 1973. Carved by artisans from Paete, Laguna, the dioramas are a unique achievement in wood carving as well as in miniature painting and decoration. They depict 60 major events and themes in history, from prehistoric Philippines to the recognition of Philippine independence by the United States in 1946. The exhibit culminates with People Power, a multimedia presentation that chronicles the events that led to the First Edsa People Power Revolution in 1986.

The Diorama Experience also exhibits several handcrafted models of ocean vessels that are part of Philippine history, including a faithful representation of a Spanish galleon, a Chinese junk, and other ships that have played a significant role in the Philippine past. The Diorama Experience represents the public face of the museum's commitment to being a museum of history.

Representing the museum's commitment to being a museum of Philippine arts is the "Hall of 19th to 20th Century Paintings." The inaugural exhibit highlights selections from Ayala Museum's permanent collection, mainly the works of Juan Luna, Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel—each artist a pioneer in his own way, in his own time. Juan Luna, the first Filipino artist to achieve international recognition, won the much-coveted gold medal at the Exposicion Nacional de Bellas Artes in Madrid in 1884. Major works such as "Woman with Manton" and "La Marquesa de Monte Olivar" are enhanced by unfinished studies including the series, "People and Kings." In contrast, rustic landscapes, country scenes and portraits by Amorsolo from 1919 to the 1950s demonstrate his expert manipulation of light and color. The exhibit also unveils notable works by the abstract artist Zobel. Individual pages of a virtual book of Zobel's drawings can be viewed beside the original on exhibit.

Then come two really exciting exhibits that call attention to the Ayala Museum's commitment to being an institutional crossroads for the exchange of ideas, talents, scholarship and artifacts with similar institutions at home and abroad. The first represents an unprecedented partnership with foreign institutions holding significant Philippine collections. The second represents an equally unprecedented collaboration between an institutional museum and private and institutional collectors.

The first exhibit is "Multiple Originals, Original Multiples: Images of 19th Century Philippine Costumes." This exhibition gathers for the first time the Damian Domingo watercolor album of Philippine costumes belonging to the Newberry Library in Chicago, the Justiniano Asuncion watercolor album of Philippine costumes in the New York Public Library, and the Ayala Museum's watercolor album of Philippine costumes attributed to the Damian Domingo atelier. Complementing the watercolor images are three major collections of 19th-century Philippine costumes—namely, the Rina Ortiz collection on permanent loan to the Ayala Museum, and the collections of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, Intramuros Administration, and the Leiden Museum of Ethnology in the Netherlands.

"Multiple Originals, Original Multiples: 19th Century Images of Philippine Costumes" challenges notions of authenticity and replication, scrutinizing works traditionally considered originals such as watercolor paintings vis-à-vis versions usually considered copies or replicas, such as prints, engravings or hand-painted derivations. Multiple versions of similar images are brought together for the first time, displaying similarities and differences, continuities and disjunctions.

And last but not the least, is "Power + Faith + Image: Philippine Art in Ivory from the 16th to the 19th Century."

Except for historians and art connoisseurs, few of us know that the Philippines was the world's major producer of Christian images in ivory from the 16th to the 19th century. Master carvers in the Philippines supplied churches and private patrons in Spain, Mexico, Latin America and other Asian countries with magnificent works. The Philippine ivory tradition, which produced the most beautiful and moving images, surpasses that of any other country for range, scope and sheer volume of production. The exhibition showcases the popular images produced by Philippine carvers for the ecclesiastical and domestic markets. As symbols of devotion during the earlier part of Spanish colonization, the Catholic Church was the sole patron of the ivory trade. Economic developments in the 19th century allowed the *ilustrados* to become the new art patrons who commissioned ivories as objects of piety to adorn their stately homes.

These groundbreaking exhibitions mark the Ayala Corporation and Foundation's commitment to Philippine arts and culture. A commitment as enduring as the corporation's presence is in our economic life.

The Ayala Museum is located on Makati Avenue corner De la Rosa Street, Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 757-7117 for more information. Or visit www.ayalamuseum.com.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Suggestive photos

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

MY mailbag last week consisted of the usual fare of complaints about too many negative news, sensationalism and depressing photos. I cannot blame the readers concerned if, in these times of fiscal crisis, they hunger for news and photos that would assure them that not everything is bad in our beloved country.

But what drew the most flak from the readers were the photos that appeared last Sept. 11 in the Super section of the INQUIRER showing two men and a woman who were apparently naked sitting in a bath tub. The accompanying article touched on the issue of homosexuality. The materials were an offshoot of a recently inaugurated TV program about gays and lesbians.

The complaints came from readers who claimed they have young children. Not content with just writing to me, they furnished copies of their e-mail to friends and Internet chat rooms with the request that they also express their indignation about the photos and article in question.

They did and how! I was literally swamped.

The e-mail from Francine Racho of Pasig City represents the views expressed by the complaining readers. She wrote: "I have noticed that the Super section is going from bad to worse. The pictures in this section, especially the cover, are going too far. I noticed this about a month or so ago and have been getting increasingly upset.

"It came to a head with last Saturday's feature on homosexuality and bisexuality. The pictures were quite offensive, regardless of their sexual orientations. My main concern is my children, as are my friends who are also mothers.

"As mothers, we can control the TV viewing of our children and take little solace in the fact that adult content is kept to the late evening hours. But newspapers are usually strewn around the house. With this type of content that the INQUIRER is spewing out, we'll have to monitor newspapers as well.

"As a highly influential provider of information, you need to be responsible not just to your current audience but to your future audience as well. The next generation faces plenty of problems, please don't aggravate the situation by being a party to those problems."

Explanation

I sent copies of the complaints to the person responsible for the publication of the subject photos and article. Here is his response to the complaints:

"We respect the opinion of our readers. We produced the shoot with the hosts of 'Out' [the TV program about gays and lesbians earlier referred to] without any malice in mind.

"We apologize if we have offended any of our readers. We continually aim to be the beacon for young people and we need our readers to consistently remind us of our responsibilities."

As I have done in similar situations in the past, I forwarded the complaints to the editorial staff so the proper steps can be taken to address the concerns raised by the readers about the content of the Super section.

Death report

Going to another subject matter, I received a letter from Romaleo de Anda of Bacoor, Cavite, that shows the kind of passion some readers have in reading the newspaper. It is no exaggeration to say they read the INQUIRER literally from top to bottom.

The subject of his letter is a news item in the Sept. 20 issue about the death of a former Filipino soldier somewhere in the Caribbean. He wrote: "On Page A5, it was reported that former Scout Ranger Meynardo Antonio Mangcucunay, Jr. died on Sept. 8 at the age of 56. He was said to be a Scout Ranger in the 1960s and 1970s. So at a young age, he was already a Scout Ranger?"

Until I read the letter, I never thought that a press release about the death of a person would motivate a reader to type a letter, put a stamp on it and send it by slow mail to the newspaper. I was under the impression that only eye-catching obituaries attract the readers' attention.

My curiosity was piqued by the reader's question. If the deceased soldier died at the age of 56, he must have been born in 1948. That makes him 21 years old or thereabouts when he served as a Scout Ranger. Makes sense, because that was about the entry age then of the men who served in the military.

I am impressed by the reader's efforts in going out of his way to write the newspaper to seek clarification about what he considers a doubtful item in a press release that came out in the inside page. If that's how he treats those materials, I can only imagine how he reads the major news reports and column articles.

If the reader is representative of the majority of the INQUIRER's readers, the burden is on the editorial staff to make sure the newspaper lives up to the expectations of the public who looks to it as a source of information, education and, of course, entertainment.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

THEY SAID

Presidential restraint

"Good governance must always be marked by a culture of restraint, and sacrifice must be an inherent part of public service."

—President Macapagal-Arroyo

Disgraced

"After what happened in Beslan, I don't have the right to occupy this post as an officer and as a man."

—Russia's North Ossetian Interior Minister Kazbek Dzantiyev said when he resigned from his post

Crisis charity

"Let us not deceive ourselves that charity will bring us out of the crisis."

—Former Economic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito who wants to impose taxes on the luxuries of the rich

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Check LGU version of deficit spending

THE LOCAL Government Code of 1991 has vested local government units with a gigantic authority that could be used for more effective fiscal administration. With such authority, provinces, cities and municipalities may contract out loans against future internal revenue allotments.

However, more often than not, LGUs use this authority which allows them wider and better access to credit, to generate funds for projects that feed on aesthetics rather than improve the locality's productivity or capability for economic value creation.

Over a decade, billions of pesos have been spent (and lost) on this kind of infrastructure that did not necessarily redound to the economic development of a province, city or municipality. Thus, we see gymnasiums or sports complexes, beautiful parks, capitol buildings, city halls and unnecessary big public markets. These sight-appealing structures are oftentimes mistaken as the yardstick of good performance by a governor or mayor.

Should not our Congress also consider putting a cap on the LGUs' deficit spending, instead of outright reduction of their internal revenue allotment? Or maybe the Palace may also do lifestyle checks on the famous, as well as the infamous local government leaders, past and present?

—FRANK E. LOBRIGO,
One Doña J. Guevara St.,
Cabagñan West, Legazpi City

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187 and counting less and less

IF the tamaraws of Mindoro could only speak, they would say: "*Nakakainggit naman si pareng* marine turtle, *na*-feature *sa* front page *ng* INQUIRER, at full color pa. *Kailan kaya tayo mapi*-feature *ng* INQUIRER sa front page *nila* (We envy our buddy, the marine turtle, he has been featured on the front page of the INQUIRER, and in full color even. When are we going to get the same treatment from the INQUIRER)?"

According to former Environment Secretary Herherson Alvarez, there are only 187 tamaraws left as of the year 2001 from a high of 10,000 in 1900. Considering that three years have passed since then and the continued poaching/hunting that has been bedeviling the tamaraws, their number couldn't be 187 anymore.

—PAUL R. MORTEL,
MBLA Court, Malanday,
Marikina City

Oligarchy: one cause of RP's failing economy

I LIKED the Sept. 8 INQUIRER editorial, "Oink (again)" especially its point that, "The difference between our corruption, for example, and the crookedness that occurs in some of our neighboring countries, is that a P10-million road will be built in another country at a cost of P15 million, while here at home, we get a P1-million road after spending P10 million."

As an outsider with Philippine connections (both business and personal) for about 20 years now, I have long wondered why the Philippine economy keeps on failing to progress.

I think I am starting to understand. Partly the pork barrel, yes, but not just that. A week or two ago, I read an article on the INQUIRER website; I quote a little of it: "Ask, why capitalism triumphs in the West and fails in the Philippines. The answer: because although the Philippine poor already possess the assets they need to make a success of capitalism, they hold these resources in defective forms...By pushing the poor into the underground economy, their assets cannot be turned into capital, cannot be traded outside of local circles, cannot be used as collateral for loans. Sure they get to avoid taxes, but they lose even more by remaining underground: They pay off local bullies or mafias; they live in constant fear of extortion from corrupt officials and thus keep their operations small and mobile; they cannot advertise; they cannot avail of low-interest loans. In short, they cannot inject life into these assets and make them generate capital."

The potential for Pinoy entrepreneurs (with low establishment costs and low labor costs) to expand to a "multi-bucks" business in a few years should be enormous, but they are prevented from doing so by the "established elite oligarchy" that asks for their share even before the business has generated any "cash flow," or uses (misuses) its powers to stop competition.

Similarly, what happens to most of the "overseas remittances" (over and above those needed to help the family subsist)? The remitters are lured into buying houses at grossly inflated prices, built on land owned by the same elite so that the funds go to the pork barrel brigade. Prof. Fernando Aldaba, chair of the Ateneo de Manila University's Economics Department, was quoted as saying that it's important to transform these remittances into investments, so that more employment opportunities can be created.

—D. ADAMS,
djohnadams@yahoo.com

MMDA's stubborn insistence

CONTRARY to the view of Oscar Labrador, it is the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's stubborn insistence on its own ticketing scheme that could cause "confusion, arguments and anarchy on the road." (PDI, 9/13/04)

Only the local government units have the authority to regulate and manage transportation and traffic within their respective areas of jurisdiction. This is clearly stated in the Local Government Code of 1991. The Supreme Court decision in the case of MMDA vs. Bel-Air Village Association Inc. (GR No. 135962, March 27, 2000) also clearly defined the limits of the MMDA's mandate. The Supreme Court ruled that the MMDA is not a political unit, but a mere administrative agency attached to the Office of the President. As such, the MMDA has no legislative powers and cannot enact ordinances and resolutions to govern traffic management.

As early as last year, several LGUs in Metro Manila, including Makati, had agreed to formulate and adopt a uniform traffic code. As the name implies, the code will have uniform provisions, including penalties and ticketing. In effect, Metro Manila will have a single traffic code approved individually by the city or municipal councils. The Makati city council approved the ordinance adopting the uniform traffic code in December last year. The Makati code took effect in July this year.

Some cities and municipalities have already adopted the uniform traffic code and they are implementing it in their areas.

It is unfortunate that the MMDA insists on its traffic scheme, knowing fully well that the LGUs of Metro Manila are moving toward a single traffic code. Either the MMDA is not aware of the provisions of the Local Government Code and of the MMDA vs Bel-Air (which we doubt) case, or it is deliberately undermining the authority of local governments, in complete disregard of the law.

—JOSELITO SJ SALGADO,
officer in charge,
Information and Community
Relations Department,
3/F Makati City Hall Old Bldg.,
JP Rizal St., Makati City

Team effort, minimal funding

THE INQUIRER'S article on "Heroes for Health" (PDI, 9/12/04) had a flavor different from what we usually get from the INQUIRER—negative news, especially about the countless obstructions toward nation-building.

The "health heroes" have shown the way to success through genuine team effort and minimal funding. I came to personally know Dr. Romulo A. Busuego when he was an intern, and then a surgical resident at the Davao General Hospital. He's now a far cry from his younger days—a true hero and leader.

My outmost congratulations to the five "Heroes for Health"!

—SALVADOR SERRANO, M.D.,
serranomd@comcast.net

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Benguet opposes trade pact with China

BAGUIO CITY—The Benguet provincial government and the Benguet Mayors' League (BML) have filed separate resolutions opposing a bilateral trade agreement between China and the Philippines, saying this will worsen the plight of local vegetable farmers.

Benguet is specifically targeting the quota opened for carrots, saying the province can take care of the domestic demand.

La Trinidad Mayor Nestor Fongwan, who heads the BML, said the postponement of the signing of the "bilateral quarantine agreement" part of the Philippine-China bilateral trade agreement on Sept. 25 was "heaven sent" because Benguet mayors will have more time to oppose it.

The agreement will formalize the existing trade of fresh fruits and vegetables between the two countries. With the agreement, the Philippines could market its banana, mango, papaya and fresh young coconut to China, while apple, orange, lychee, longgan, pears, onion, garlic and chestnut from China could be sent to the Philippines.

But Fongwan said the next part of the letter sent by Bureau of Plant Industry Director Hernani Golez to them worried Benguet mayors.

It said: "Also included in the agreement as appendices are the formal protocols for the opening of (the) Chinese market to (the) Philippines" fresh pineapple and the Chinese carrot to the Philippine market."

Fongwan said Benguet, a major producer of vegetables in the Philippines, could readily supply domestic markets with carrots. About 400 hectares of farmlands in Benguet are used to grow carrots.

The Department of Agriculture said Benguet is expected to harvest more than 400 metric tons of carrots this September.

Cipriano Santiago, Department of Agriculture Cordillera director, said carrot production could reach more than 6,000 tons in November and December.

Santiago said the country needs 4,000 tons of carrots a month. He said if Benguet could not supply these markets, other carrot-producing provinces could fill up the gap.

"We are encouraging others to help stop the signing of the agreement," Fongwan said. Ilocos, for example, is severely affected by garlic importation, while Nueva Ecija would definitely be devastated by the glut of onions from China.

In Palawan, the visit on Friday of Chinese Ambassador Wu Hong Bo in Puerto Princesa City was seen as paving the way for more economic ties between China and the province.

Gov. Joel Reyes, said part of the visit was China's commitment to give $33 million for fish port facilities and fishery development to Palawan.

Last week, businessmen and officials of Jelin province in China met with Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon to propose to transfer technology on several products. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

DA appeals to swine farmers to hang on, promises support

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap appealed to hog farmers and swine producers nationwide to stretch their patience, claiming that government help is on the way.

Earlier, swine industry players announced that they would shut down their farms within a 12-month period from August allegedly because of lack of support from the government.

The drastic move is expected to displace about 250,000 workers in the swine industry and allied industries nationwide.

But Yap told the protesting hog producers that Quedancor, a government lending agency, has already set aside at least P1 billion to help them repopulate their pig farms.

He said aside from the fund, the government has also been working to lower the cost of production.

In August, the hog producers, through the South Cotabato Swine Producers Association (Socospa), urged the government to "put in place shock absorbers" to cushion the effects on the economy of the closure of swine farms.

The statement, however, clarified that: "This doesn't mean the consumers will miss their favorite pork delicacies because instead of locally-produced pork sold in the market the new scheme now will be imported pork to be sold in supermarkets."

Socospa president James Chua, Sultan Kudarat Swine Raisers Chair Benedict Garde and Upper Valley Multi-Purpose Cooperative head Romeo Alzona revealed they were consulted by their counterparts from the Visayas and Luzon and that they all agreed to the planned phase out.

In the same statement, the groups claimed they found it difficult to continue the fight for biosecurity protection and stop the smuggling of imported pork after the resignation of Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo.

The hog raisers warned that prices of pork may increase once there would be shortage of supply in the market during the phaseout period.

The hog raisers, the statement further said, will work for the lowering of tariff rates to zero, once the pig farms are gone, to protect consumers.

The closure of swine farms would not just lead to retrenchment of workers or increase in prices of pork.

This may also have a rippling effect on other agricultural sectors like corn and copra producers and feed producers.

The city is one of the areas that might be seriously affected by the death of the P1.2 billion swine industry.

General Santos ships out to Manila about 20,000 heads of hogs every month, equivalent to about 30 percent of Metro Manila's meat requirement.

The statement said instead of producing meat, local investors will tie up with their foreign counterparts in importing pork and in putting up processing centers in key areas in the country.

The country is expected to shell out some $1.8 billion a year on pork importation.

But Yap said pork importation have no effect on the local industry.

"It's not true that government policy, which allows imported meat to come in had affected the swine industry," he said.

Yap said in fact, importers have yet to maximize the 5,000 metric tons allocation for them.
Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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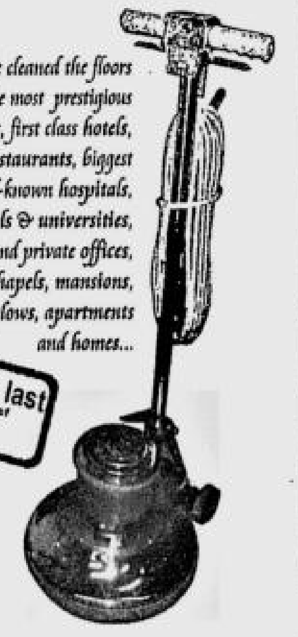
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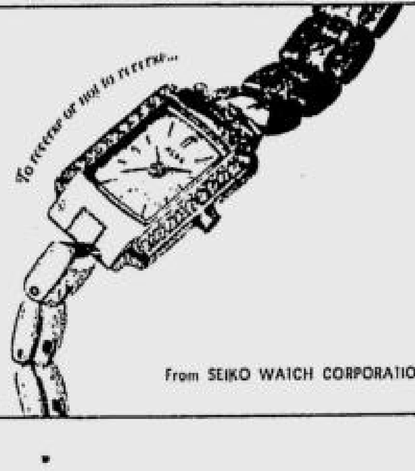
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NEW SCHEDULE OF DIVIDEND DECLARATION, DIVIDEND PAYOUT AND CCA (Formerly CCS Account) PLACEMENT PERIOD

To comply with the directive of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas dated June 9, 2004, to pay dividends on actual income earned as of date of declaration, the AFP Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AFPSLAI) will adopt the quarterly computation of dividend and the quarterly payout effective third quarter of year 2004. The CCA (formerly CCS account) placement periods have been changed effective fourth quarter 2004.

AFPSLAI has approved a new **schedule** for the dividend declaration and dividend payout. The new scheme will be more beneficial to members because of earlier schedule of dividend payout.

The new schedule is as follows:

PLACEMENT PERIOD	APPLICABLE QUARTER	Dividend Declaration	NEW DIVIDEND PAYOUT	~~DIVIDEND PAYOUT previously announced AUGUST 25, 2004~~
June 1-17, 2004	3rd Quarter 2004 (June 17-September 14)	October 15, 2004	October 25th onward	~~November 15, 2004~~
1st three working days of October 2004	4th Quarter 2004 (October-December)	January 15, 2005	January 25th onward	~~February 15, 2005~~
2005 ONWARD				
1st three working days of January	1st Quarter (January-March)	April 15	25th April onward	~~May 15~~
1st three working days of April	2nd Quarter (April-June)	July 15	25th July onward	~~August 15~~
1st three working days of July	3rd Quarter (July-September)	October 15	25th October onward	~~November 15~~
1st three working days of October	4th Quarter (October-December)	January 15	25th January onward	~~February 15~~

*This notice rescinds all other previously made announcements/schedules.

AFPSLAI MANAGEMENT

For further details, call 9116576 or 9112032 loc. 2308/2309; or visit AFPSLAI's website; www.afpslai.com.ph ; or e-mail address at cca_revisedsked@afpslai.com.ph.

Senate probe of 'illegal logging' at UPLB urged

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Sen. Jamby Madrigal on Wednesday said she would file a resolution before the Senate's blue ribbon committee to investigate University of the Philippines at Los Banos Chancellor Wilfredo David and other university officials for cutting trees within the university premises.

Madrigal visited the UPLB campus here to check on the reported illegal logging of decades-old trees worth P40 million inside the campus.

In a news conference held underneath a contested dao tree, Madrigal expressed her dismay over the arbitrary decision of UPLB Chancellor Wilfredo David and other university officials to cut down trees which were believed to be sick and overgrown.

The dao tree was the subject of a year-long debate between university officials and UPLB alumni who opposed David's decision to let the tree go.

"As a member of the Senate committee on environment and an environmental advocate, I have decided to go to UPLB to manifest my concern on the charges of illegal logging.

Sadly, these acts are allegedly being undertaken with the blessing of UPLB officials," Madrigal said.

She questioned the agreement between David and a private contractor regarding the cutting of several trees, some of which, like the dao, are considered threatened species by international monitoring agencies.

The agreement, she said, gave 60 percent of the total amount of the harvested lumber to the private contractor while the rest would go to the university coffers.

Among the trees that were cut were two bitaog trees located in front of the main gate of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources (CFNR).

Ben Avecilla, who was contracted by the university for the project, said the trees cost around P1 million. He, however, did not elaborate where and how he dispatched the lumber.

Madrigal said she was dismayed after David refused to answer her Aug. 27 letter asking for his explanations on the allegations.

"Is the silence of Chancellor David an indication of his inability to respond to charges that UPLB officials stand to gain 40 percent of the lumber sharing from the trees?" she said.

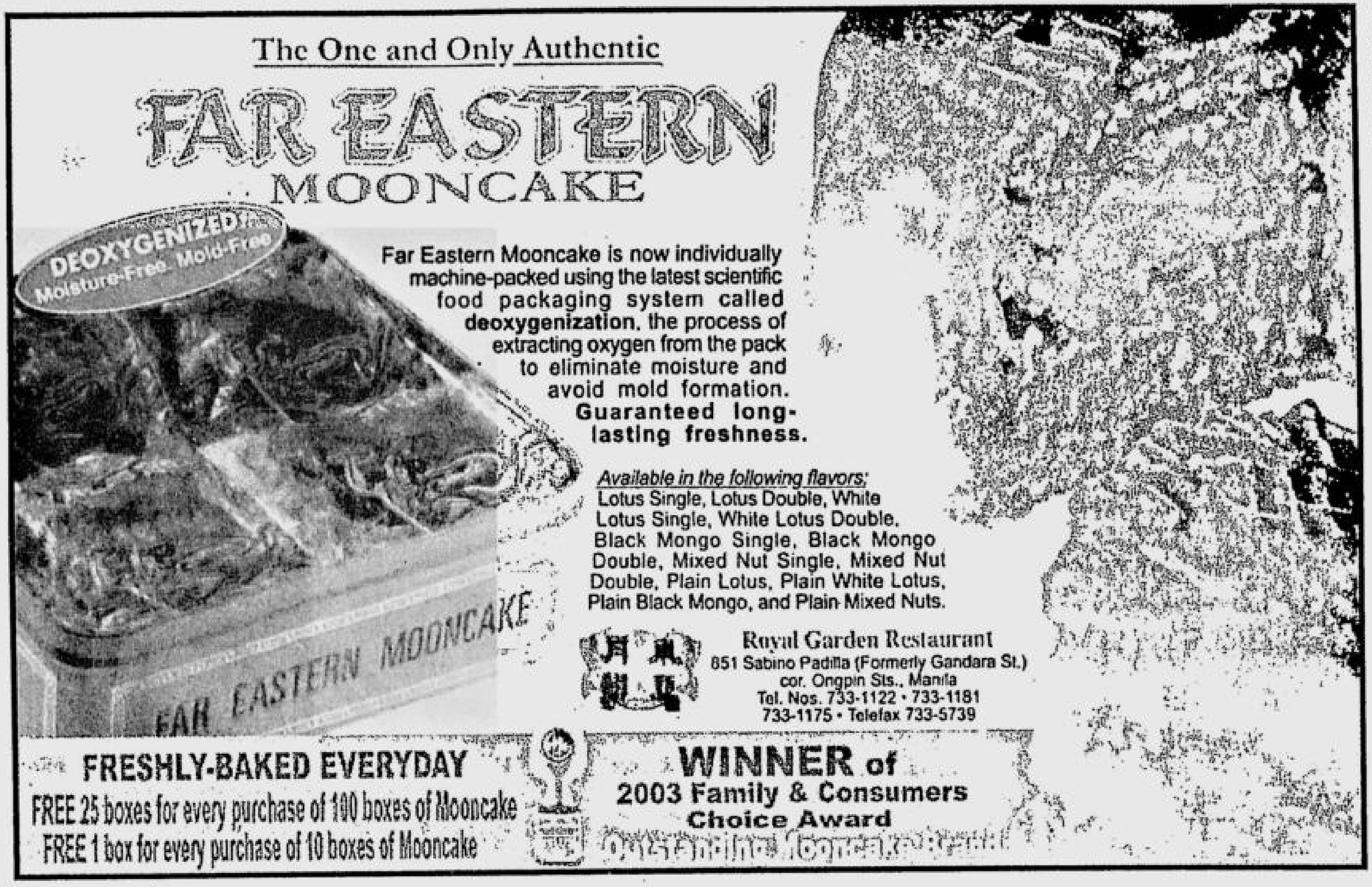
When reporters went to the UPLB administration office, David failed to show up for an interview.

A staff member from his office told the INQUIRER that he was on leave.

Instead, four CFNR officials and several of David's staff denied the charges lobbed against the university head. CFNR Dean Dr. Ramon Razal, who recommended the cutting of trees, defended David's decision, saying it was founded on scientific studies done by tree and forestry experts.

Razal said the trees were all suffering from butt and center rot, which had made the huge trees weak and vulnerable to strong winds and heavy rains.

He said the disease made the trees hazardous to public safety. He also denied that David gained some money from the lumber harvested from the trees. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*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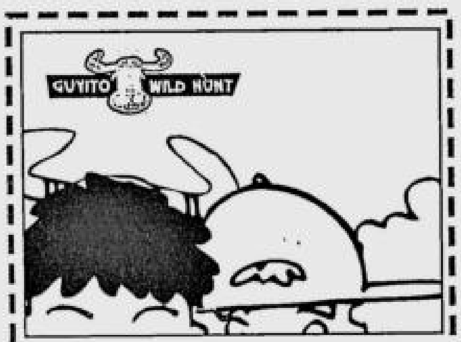

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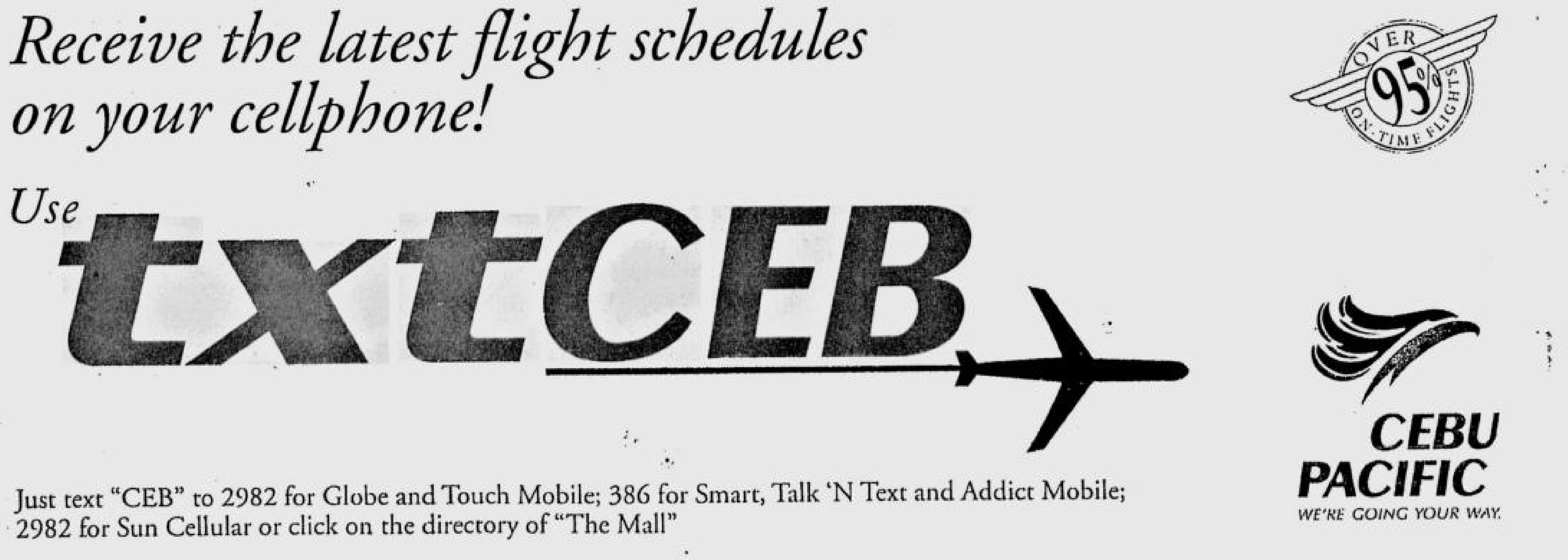
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ROUNDUP

9 held for forgery

SAN FERNANDO CITY—Police here arrested nine suspected members of a dollar forgery syndicate for possessing a copper metal box allegedly containing $250-billion worth of United States Federal Reserve bonds and a metal capsule containing war documents. The suspects were arrested in an entrapment operation at the International Rural Electrification Training Center in Agoo town, La Union. Supt. Samuel Diciano, La Union police director, identified the suspects Norlito Lagmay, 43, the alleged leader of the group; Rodolfo Daracay, 58; Evangeline Muñoz, 39; Myrna Sagano, 46; Sally Javier, 39; Carmen Villanueva, 39; Constantino Potuguis Jr., 34; Eliza Floronda, 67; and Veronica Peras, 41. Chief Insp. Sterling Raymund Blanco, provincial police intelligence chief, said the suspects claimed that they were commissioned by the US government to recover boxes containing Federal Reserve bonds from a plane that supposedly crashed in Mindanao during World War II.

Peter La. Julian, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Scam victims helped

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Government Service Insurance System and the National Bureau of Investigation have started helping the 11 workers who claimed they have been victims of an alleged housing loan scam within the state pension fund agency. In a statement, GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said his agency's housing and real property development group has conducted an inventory on the records of the 11 employees of the City of San Fernando Water District. Garcia also urged the workers to help the GSIS uncover the supposed anomaly.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

11 employees suspended

CABANATUAN CITY—Eleven employees of the municipal government of Lupao, Nueva Ecija, were suspended for six months for refusing to perform their official duties. Mayor Alex Joanino said despite his repeated calls, the employees ignored his order for them to report for work. He said the employees, some of whom are department heads, appeared to be sympathetic with his political opponents and that they did not recognize him as the elected mayor of the town. He said the suspension of the 11 employees followed civil service rules and regulations.

Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

More trees to be cut to widen Bulacan roads

CITY OF MALOLOS—More 30- to 50-year-old acacia trees along the MacArthur Highway in Bulacan and Pampanga are to be cut and uprooted to give way to a government road-widening project.

Marcelo Mendiola of the Department of Public Works and Highways' engineering office said the two lanes of the highway are being converted into four lanes to serve as alternate route for motorists who cannot afford the increased toll fees of the North Luzon Expressway (NLE).

Mendiola said they were fast tracking the widening in time for the December opening of the newly rehabilitated NLE.

Earlier, Bulacan Rep. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado sought the widening and rehabilitation of the MacArthur Highway from Metro Manila to Mabalacat, Pampanga.

In Bulacan, road widening will cover the stretch of the highway from Meycauayan to Calumpit towns. Mendiola said similar cutting and uprooting of trees for road widening will also be undertaken in Balagtas and Guiguinto towns.

Joey Papa, chair of Bangon Kalikasan, said the cutting and uprooting of old acacia trees violated a Department of Environment and Natural Resources regulation on tree protection. "We learned that the trees will be replaced by the city government of Malolos, but it will take another 30 to 50 years for newly planted trees to grow," Papa said.

But Mayor Danilo Domingo defended the tree cutting, saying it had clearance from the Department of Public Works and Highways.

"Because of the widening project, the flow of traffic along the congested MacArthur Highway has been running smoothly," he said. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Amnesty opposed for Oakwood mutineers

From page A1

what happened, hoping that the other participants in Oakwood would be left alone."

By granting them amnesty, Guevara said the government would be freeing "a group of idealistic officers that this country needs."

Collective decision

"I just find it very ironic that we have these officers, full of integrity, in jail while the corrupt even get appointed to GOCCs (government-owned and -controlled corporations)," he said.

Were the Magdalo leaders really sincere about their apologies? How do you explain the distraught, if not angry, look in Trillanes' face as he and the five officers saluted Ms Arroyo after they issued the apology?

Guevara said the facial expression should not be interpreted as a sign of dissension. "He's just like that when he's serious."

The truth was that the apology was a "collective decision" that he and the Magdalo leaders had been discussing in the last two or three months, the lawyer said.

Homobono Adaza, a co-counsel for the mutineers, had fumed at the soldiers' decision to apologize, saying he had been kept in the dark when they decided to make a "360-degree turn."

Guevara said the apology question frequently popped up in "hypothetical [and] academic discussions" with the Magdalo leaders. But he claimed he did not know that Trillanes and the others would really push through with it.

Hernandez, presidential adviser for the implementation of the Feliciano Commission's recommendations, said she found the apology sincere.

"Personally, I don't think there was a deal," said the professor, who maintains an office in Malacañang to oversee the implementation of the panel's recommendations. The commission had opposed amnesty for the mutineers.

Hernandez asked politicians and Magdalo lawyers to stay out of the amnesty issue.

"The President has said so, she's accepting the apology but the case would continue," she told the INQUIRER. "People should take this cue and see (the issue) holistically. The problem is politicians are jumping the gun again!"

Who is mastermind?

Pichay (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) said the mutineers would enhance their chances of obtaining presidential pardon if they revealed who actually masterminded and backed their rebellion.

"The matter of granting pardon to the Magdalo coup leaders is up to President Arroyo, but this can be enhanced by the mutineers' disclosure of the big political fish who backed and duped them," Pichay said.

Now co-chair of the powerful bicameral Commission on Appointments, Pichay was chair of the House committee on national defense when the mutiny occurred.

Then opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan, linked to several coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the 1980s, was accused of being a major player in the Oakwood rebellion. He has strongly denied the allegation.

Pardon not automatic

Soldiers involved in coup attempts against Aquino escaped criminal prosecution when the administration of then President Fidel Ramos granted them amnesty through a law passed by Congress.

Ms Arroyo has not commented on the issue of amnesty for the mutineers, saying only that there could be no pardon unless there was a conviction.

Pichay said pardon "is not an automatic possibility," and that a presidential grant of amnesty needed the concurrence of a majority of all members of Congress.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon urged Ms Arroyo to allow the courts to rule first on the cases against the rebel military officers before taking any political action on their cases.

Biazon, who helped negotiate the surrender of the Oakwood mutineers, said this was necessary "if we are to maintain the rule of law and institutional processes."

Appeal to GMA

"I am asking the President to allow the judicial resolution to take precedence over a political resolution," he said in a phone interview.

Several senators, including Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., have said they are open to the idea of amnesty for the rebel soldiers.

Biazon called on the courts to expedite the resolution of the cases against the mutineers. He said that even the mutiny leaders' apology "may be considered by the courts as an act of remorse and contriteness and so they may decide favorably.

"Whether they are sincere is a question that will have to be proven in time," he said.

Biazon also said the apology of the mutiny leaders would "hopefully be a signal to an end to military adventurism."

Malacañang said yesterday it was prepared to provide the mutiny leaders with legal assistance in their court cases, if they needed it.

"Our government is ready to answer the legal requirements of the Magdalo officers. We have provisions to give legal assistance to those that don't have the appropriate legal assistance," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said on RMN radio.

Nothing but a show

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal scoffed at the apparent move toward reconciliation between Ms Arroyo and the mutineers.

"That public apology thing was orchestrated by Malacañang. They desperately need positive stories to spin to save the Arroyo administration from further ruin," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

He said many soldiers who looked up to the Magdalo leaders would be "truly disappointed" at their apparent turnaround.

Rosal claimed that not a few soldiers had approached the revolutionary forces, offering cooperation in the fight against corruption in the military. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.; and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Coup virus alive in flawed democracy

From page A1

military support for the Estrada administration—which was, in reality, a bloodless coup that led to the collapse of his regime.

The best that can be said about the survival of governments against these repeated rebellions is that while the people did not flock behind the banner of the rebels, they did not, at the same time, demonstrate their commitment to die for democracy by marching in the streets to defend a beleaguered government.

For example, when the Aquino administration was in danger of being toppled by the "God Save the Queen" (November 1986) coup and by the December 1989 revolt, the bloodiest of the series, most Filipinos stood on the sidelines as seemingly noncommitted bystanders, waiting for the outcome and hedging their bets.

As has been commented by some well-informed observers, the Oakwood mutineers' apology was the result of a combination of factors.

The apology was motivated by what was described by Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV's lawyer as a "convergence of interests." By this he meant considerations of lost income while the rebels underwent court-martial, and reinstatement in military service.

Climate for compromise

Essentially, the climate for a pragmatic and face-saving compromise for both the government and the rebels had emerged. Negotiations had been under way for a compromise since last December. Philippine Military Academy alumni played a back-channel role in the negotiations, using the PMA old-boy network as a conflict-solving mechanism.

The new leadership in the defense department after the June 30 inauguration of President Macapagal-Arroyo was seen by the rebels as a sign of a new approach in cleaning up alleged corruption in supplies procurement in the Armed Forces and a favorable climate for working out a compromise.

Besides, persons who were involved in previous inquiries into coups, like Prof. Carolina Hernandez of the University of the Philippines, whose impartiality was trusted, were brought into the negotiations.

Divided over amnesty

The President has accepted the apology as "humbly made," but said the court-martial would go ahead. The rebels did not demand amnesty as a condition for the apology.

But taking into consideration the nuances of reconciliation in Philippine culture, amnesty after a decision of guilty of mutiny in a court-martial cannot be ruled out.

The rebels' lawyer has pointed out: "It is to the best interest of the Arroyo administration to see to it that the mutineers are back in the mainstream, and it would be best for Trillanes and company [for] their men to be out of jail. It's also for the national interest that we have stability."

Debate in Manila over the question of amnesty is divided between the hardline view and the pragmatic view. The hardliners argue that the "full force of the law" should be applied to deter future mutinies.

The pragmatists argue that a compromise enhances the climate of political calm—a condition essential to political stability and certainty for business.

The apology contains some revealing statements that might shed light on the issue of why the Oakwood mutiny failed and why previous rebellions had failed.

No popular support

The statement said that mutineers occupied Oakwood on July 27, 2003, "to vent our grievances." It said, "This we did in our honest, though naïve, desire for change."

What is revealing is the statement of the mutineers that "as succeeding events have shown, the Filipino people did not agree with our means of expression. As a result, we humbly face the consequences of our action."

There's nothing naïve in their "desire for change," but the mutineers betrayed naivety when they thought that their grievances over corruption in the military, which undermined the campaign against the Moro separatist rebellion in Mindanao, would galvanize mass support in Metro Manila for the Oakwood seizure.

As seized military documents have demonstrated, the coup was not well-planned and, worse, was based on false assumptions and unrealistic expectation.

The plan of the mutineers revealed that they had been assured that as soon as they had attacked Oakwood, this would be the signal for mobs composed of Estrada supporters to stage mass demonstrations in Makati to support the siege. The mobs never showed up.

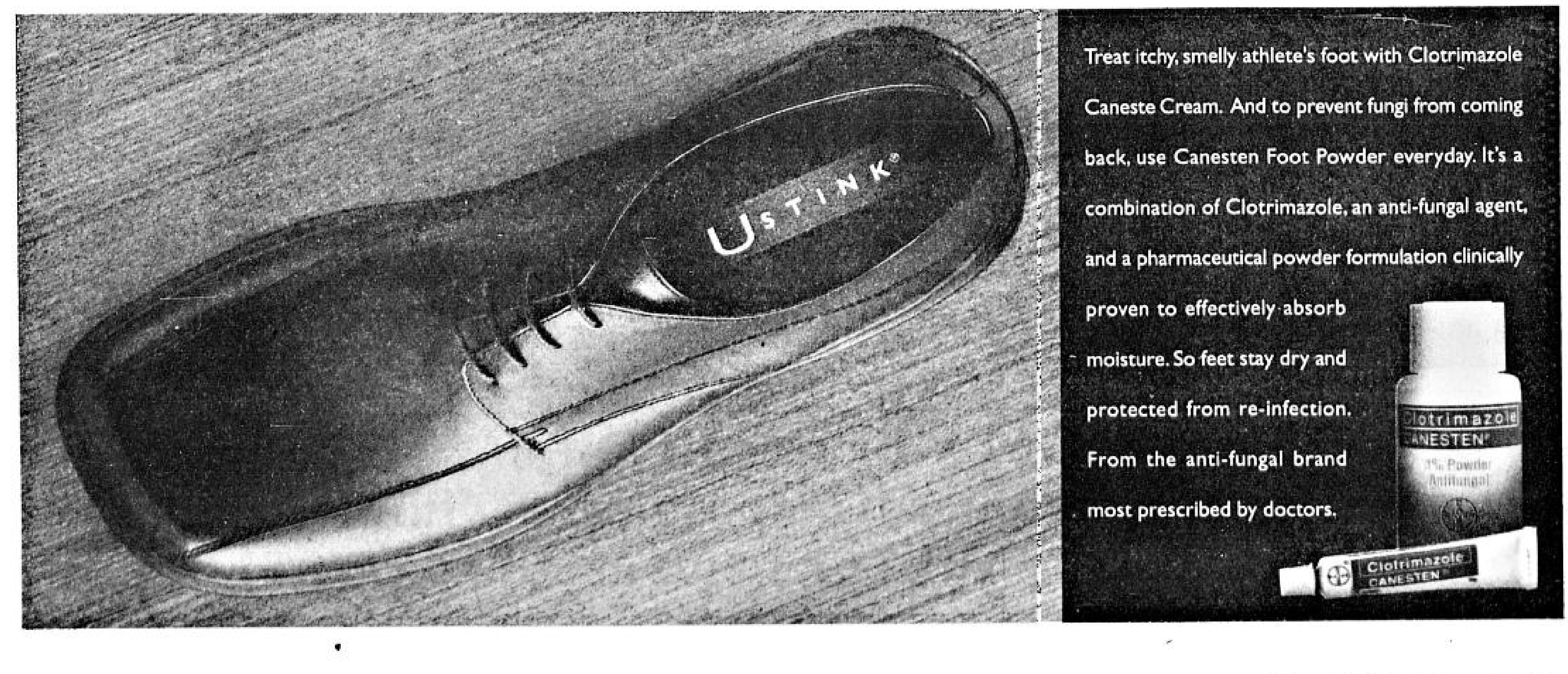
Lessons from the past

The lesson the mutineers have learned is expressed by their statement that, "succeeding events have shown [that] the Filipino people did not agree with our means of expression."

In their impatience and romantic notions about their action, the mutineers ignored the lessons of the failure of the coups led by Col. Gregorio Honasan. Honasan's coups assumed they would receive popular support, unlikely at a time when the Aquino administration was enjoying wide popularity.

The explanation of why the Aquino administration survived the Honasan coups and why the first Macapagal administration survived the Oakwood siege lies outside the realm of Filipino popular support in the streets.

These coup attempts failed mainly because the balance of power inside the military itself tilted in favor of government.



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Tobacco companies told to agree on tax hike

By Carlito Pablo

THE CHAIR of the House ways and means committee yesterday appealed to major players in the tobacco industry to come up with a common position on how government could increase taxes on cigarettes.

Rep. Jesli Lapus (NPC, Tarlac) made the call as the debate on cigarette taxes has divided members of the House of Representatives into the camp of Lucio Tan's Fortune Tobacco Corp. and that of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc.

The legislators favoring Fortune Tobacco support a return to the ad valorem from the specific tax system, while those toeing the Philip Morris line want the specific tax retained.

Under the ad valorem system, the tax is computed as a percentage of the value or price of a product. The cheaper the product the lower the tax.

In contrast, a set amount is levied per unit, or per pack of 20 cigarettes, in the specific tax system. Brands are classified into four price brackets with the lowest-priced brands taxed the lowest under this system.

"The players earlier expressed their commitment to help the government get over the fiscal hump," Lapus said. "I appeal to them in the spirit of that commitment to cooperate in legislation."

Lobby groups

The cigarette players have their respective lobby groups wooing legislators to favor their positions, according to Lapus.

"It's public knowledge that these are the big players," Lapus said. "We recognize that."

Asked if the cigarette players were wielding considerable influence over lawmakers, Lapus said: "There's strength in their lobby."

Lapus said a common industry position would facilitate the passage of a cigarette tax and prevent Congress from being split on the issue.

Most members of the Northern Alliance of lawmakers from the tobacco-growing provinces in northern Luzon are seen to favor the Tan camp's position.

Led by Rep. Eric Singson (LP, Ilocos Sur), the so-called northerners are advocating a return to ad valorem tax from the current specific system.

Lawmakers, mostly from the southern parts of the country, want to slap a uniform tax rate on all cigarette brands.

In 1997, the government did away with the ad valorem tax in favor of the specific tax system.

Biggest buyer

Owing to the clout of Fortune Tobacco, which is the biggest buyer of tobacco leaves from the North, ad valorem supporters are not lacking in advocates from the South.

They include Representatives Danilo Suarez (LP, Quezon) and Exequiel Javier (Lakas, Antique), principal authors of the bill seeking a shift back to ad valorem.

Among those advocating a uniform tax system, which is Philip Morris' position, are Representatives Crispin Remulla (NP, Cavite) and Marcelino Libanan (NPC, Eastern Samar).

Last week, party-list Rep. Florencio Noel (An Waray) filed House Bill No. 3020 seeking to do away with the current price classification of cigarettes.

Under HB 3020, all cigarette brands will be slapped a uniform P6.50 tax per pack.

"The excise tax system is simplified with a unitary tax rate," Noel said. "The playing field in leveled."

Also last week, Rep. Hermilando Mandanas (LP, Batangas) filed House Bill No. 3023 proposing the retention of the specific tax system.

Under the bill, the four-tier price classification is reduced to only two brackets.

Mandanas explained that collapsing the brackets into just two classifications would neutralize the manufacturers' practice of introducing cheap brands into the market.

Malacañang is pushing for the indexation of the excise taxes on the so-called sin products—alcoholic beverages and tobacco—as part of its proposed eight revenue measures aimed at raising P80 billion a year.

Because the specific tax on alcoholic beverages and tobacco stays the same even as the price of the products keeps rising with inflation, the government's tax take is eroded.

To solve the problem of falling revenue from sin products, the Department of Finance is pushing for indexation in which its tax take will go up in tandem with the rise in the prices of gin, beer, or cigarettes.

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From page A1

The state-owned utility firm later rehired a number of the retired employees, prompting Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, to call an inquiry into its expensive retirement program.

Salceda, a member of Ms Arroyo's Economic Managers Group, said the early retirement program for government employees "is a solid step of the President toward fiscal health and is likely to excite investors."

Aside from downsizing the bureaucracy, Ms Arroyo is pushing for a consolidation of government agencies, committees and government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) through mergers and abolition.

Amid the fiscal crisis, Ms Arroyo has batted for a spartan government through stringent belt-tightening measures in all government offices and cutbacks in salaries and perks of GOCC executives.

Salceda expressed confidence that bold measures aimed at solving the fiscal crisis would lead to a credit ratings upgrade and cuts in the government debt expenses.

The retirement program will chop off P7.7 billion yearly from the P290-billion budget for government employees' salaries, which account for a third of the government's total annual expenses.

Salceda suggested that the government put a minimum age limit of 60 years for those taking advantage of the retirement package to maximize the incentives plan.

Ex-CPP . . .

From page A1

in the parking lot of SM Fairview at around 6:30 p.m., said Director Avelino Razon, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office.

"Arturo Tabara is dead," Razon told the INQUIRER.

He said Tabara and his companion, reportedly the boyfriend of his daughter identified as Stephen Ong from Dumaguete City, died of multiple gunshot wounds.

"They had just parked their AUV and were about to get out when their assailant walked up to them and shot them," Razon said.

The assassin or assassins escaped, and no suspects have been arrested.

Police were not clear on whether or not there was more than one killer.

Police said that among the angles they were looking at was the possible connection of last night's killings with Tabara's decision to break away from the communist mainstream.

Police Intelligence Director Robert Delfin said that Tabara had been on the hit-list of the New People's Army since his group broke away from the mainstream Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA in 1992.

Lagman, Kintanar

Tabara was the third senior communist figure to die by an assassin's hand in the past three years after cutting ties with the CPP-NPA.

Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino leader Filemon "Popoy" Lagman was gunned on the campus of the University of Philippines in February 2001 by four assassins. CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal had denied his group's involvement in the Lagman killing.

Another top leftist leader, former NPA chief Romulo "Rolly" Kintanar, was assassinated by two gunmen inside a Quezon City restaurant in January 2003.

After Kintanar's killing, the CPP warned that "all the traitors of the revolution cannot escape from retribution."

Tabara's group has been involved in peace talks with the government separate from the negotiations Manila is holding with the National Democratic Front, and had entered into preliminary agreements with the government on the implementation of confidence-building measures.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 27, 2004
26th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Job 1:6-22
Gospel: Lk 9:46-50

One day the disciples were arguing about which of them was the most important. But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he took a little child and stood him by his side. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. And listen: the one who is found to be the least among you all, is the one who is the greatest."

Then John spoke up, "Master, we saw someone who drove out demons by calling upon your name, and we tried to forbid him because he doesn't follow you with us." But Jesus said, "Don't forbid him. He who is not against you is for you."

Commentary

Someone said that a neurosis is a secret you don't know you're keeping. There must exist somewhere deep in us the mother of all neuroses (otherwise where would the little ones come from?). This would be the one to get to know. It has been given a name: it is the ego.

It's not me, it's the idea I have of me. That makes two of me. The first me (let's call me that) is dependent for life on an astronomical number of other creatures. There are more living beings (with their own DNA, different from mine) living in my body than there are people in the world! I am their planet, I am their mountains and rivers. They depend on me and I depend on them; if I sprayed them all to death (were that possible) I would die instantly.

This is not good news for the ego (that's the other me). This "me" thinks he's basically alone in the world, and that anything he gets (apart from what he got for nothing from his mother a long time ago) is due to his own efforts. He's a lonely competitor for just about everything, and he has his story to tell (which forgets to mention the many billions of creatures inside and outside his skin). So it's very important for him to be reassured that he's doing well. Or rather (since he doesn't really know who or what he is), that he's doing better than someone else.

The disciples of Jesus, like all of us, had the same problem. They were "arguing about which of them was the most important." Jesus took a child and said, you must become like children. Children were not romanticized in those days: a child was a nobody. You must become nobody, then there will be room in you for you—and for all the others.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE/CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—**Presentation of informant and buy-bust money in prosecution of sale of prohibited drugs**—Well-established is the rule that the presentation of a confidential informant in a buy-bust operation is not always required, especially when the sale was actually witnessed and adequately proved by other prosecution witnesses. This rule admits of exceptions, however, as when the appellant vehemently denies selling prohibited drugs; and when there are material inconsistencies in the testimonies of the arresting officers. For like reason, the presentation of the buy-bust money and proof of its actual payment—pieces of evidence that are otherwise not indispensable—become necessary if the constitutional presumption of innocence is to be overcome. In the present case, the material inconsistencies in the testimonies of the prosecution witness and the non-presentation of the buy-bust money raise reasonable doubts about the occurrence of a buy-bust operation. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, First Division, People vs Balag-ey, G. R. No. 141532, April 14, 2004]

BY R. B. VERA

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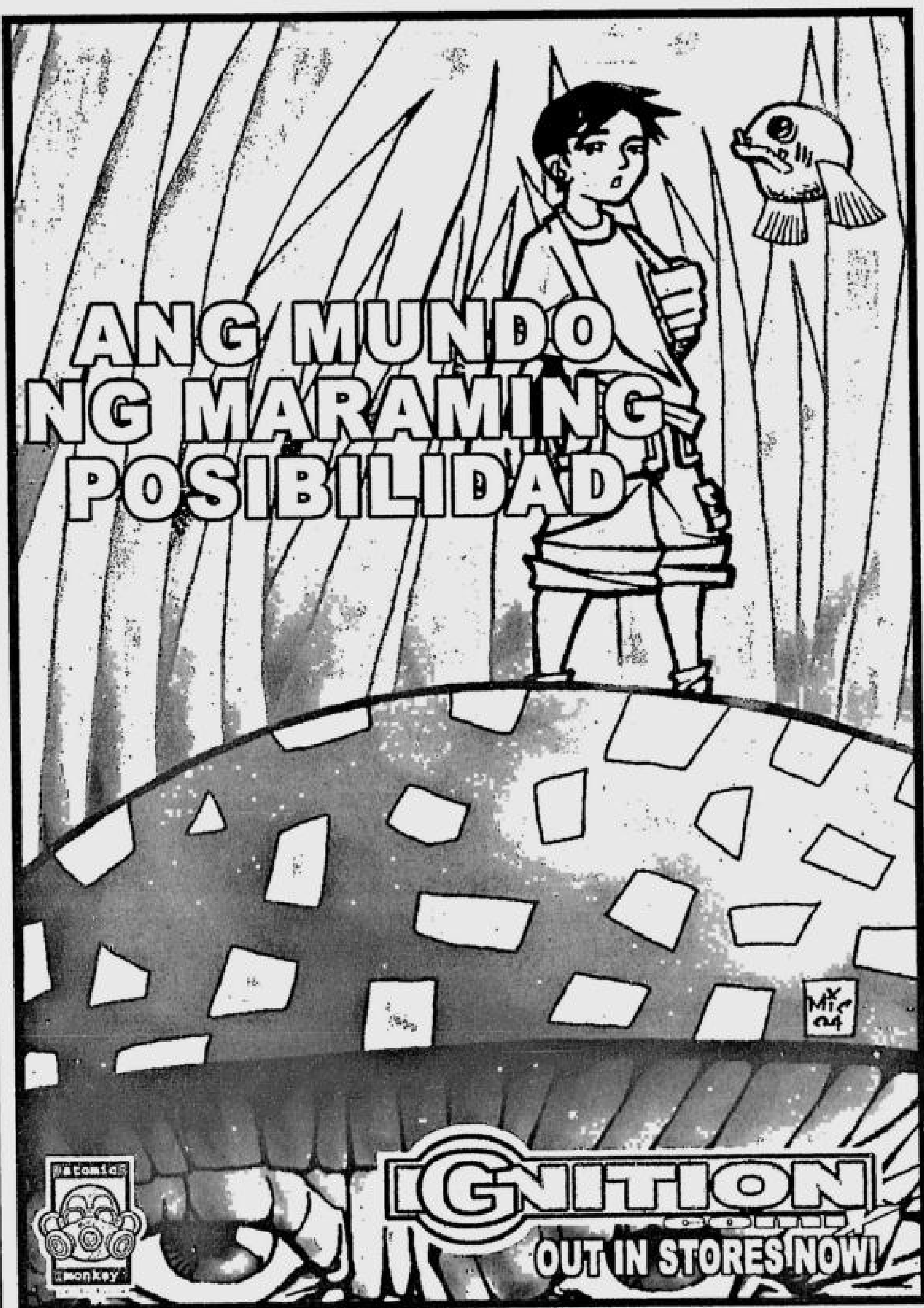

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Pamela stars in vegan ad campaign for Pinoys

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crusader for the Virginia-based People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta), which claims to be the largest animal rights organization in the world.

"Go vegetarian," says the Peta advertisement specially made for Filipino audiences and showing a naked Anderson, her privates covered only by three patches of cloth designed like lettuce leaves.

The ad made its debut last week on the Internet, where the actress has been a poster girl for years now, but for some other pursuits only vaguely related to eating habits.

Peta's production is expected to materialize in all forms of hard copies soon. Until then, browsers are steered toward one of the group's websites, www.GoVeg.com, where they can download the Anderson poster for free, as well as the latest edition of Peta's popular vegetarian starter kit, of which it is the cover.

'Why not?'

In a statement, Peta and Anderson said they wanted to assure Filipinos that a vegan diet, "one devoid of all animal products," was the best way to stay trim and avoid life-threatening illnesses, ease one's conscience, and maybe even spice up one's sex life.

"Why go vegetarian?" the blonde and blue-eyed beauty asked.

For a woman to have a body like hers, or for a man to catch a woman with a body like hers?

She didn't say. Instead, she posed another question: "With so many great reasons, I think that a better question is, 'Why not?'"

The actress has reportedly been a vegetarian since she was 16. "I hope to get the word out to Filipinos that 'eating green' is good for animals and people," she said.

> 'I hope to get the word out to Filipinos that eating green is good for animals and people'

Peta's new vegetarian starter kit gives simplified guidelines on how to begin "eating right," and includes several vegetarian recipes.

The group notes that the lifestyle it promotes has ceased to be just a trend: One can now get a veggie burger, or pop a veggie hotdog into the microwave, and top the meal with a tofu dessert; or order latte with soy milk in coffee-shop chains; and stock the kitchen with products that were unimaginable 20 years ago—flavored rice mixes, microwavable ready-made meals, soy-based "cream" and mayonnaise, and a variety of mock meats.

In the statement, Peta cited studies that show how eating meat causes heart disease, the leading killer of Filipinos. It also noted that vegetarians were 40 percent less likely to die of cancer than meat-eaters.

Carnivorous men were candidates for impotence, the group warned, since meat clogged the arteries "to all vital organs."

This, Peta said, was on top of the fact that meat and other animal products had also been linked to diabetes, and that societies with the highest rates of dairy consumption likewise posted the highest incidence of osteoporosis, "the very disease dairy promoters claim their products prevent."

Ironically, it stressed, now that vegetarianism was on the upswing globally, many Filipinos were "mimicking the unhealthful, meat-laden eating habits of western cultures."

Vigilant vegan

Peta related Anderson's history as a defender of animal rights since she was a little girl growing up in British Columbia, Canada.

She raised such a ruckus when her father brought home a deer he had killed, that he never hunted again. When she learned about the atrocities committed against animals raised for food, she became vegetarian, and later joined Peta. Years later, as a special guest of Prince Albert of Monaco, she inadvertently held up dinner when she insisted on being served a vegetarian meal.

Peta said Anderson counted as fellow vegans Filipino celebrities, like Isabel Roces (a recent poster girl herself), Raymond Bagatsing and Chin Chin Gutierrez. Elsewhere in the world, the "droppable" names on the roster include Martina Navratilova, Kim Basinger, Alec Baldwin, Joaquin Phoenix, Moby, Tobey Maguire and Sir Paul McCartney.

Animals raised for food led miserable lives and suffered terrifying deaths, Peta pointed out. Many animals in the Philippines, it said, were raised on cruel "factory" farms.

"They spend their brief lives in overcrowded conditions—many of them ... can't even turn around or spread a wing. Many do not get a breath of fresh air until they are roughly gathered and crammed onto trucks for a nightmarish ride to the abattoir. The animals are hung upside down and their throats are slit, often while they're fully conscious."

Peta said these "living, breathing, thinking, feeling beings, whose senses are so much like our own, suffer and die at the rate of millions per day just so we can have burgers, patties, nuggets, and wieners."

A nonprofit charitable organization founded in 1980, Peta currently lists more than 800,000 individual members. It has affiliates in the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and India. In partnership with Philippine-based animal rights groups, Peta recently launched a letter drive to protest horse fights in Davao's Kadayawan Festival.

Its main website, www.peta.org, says it all: "Peta operates under the simple principle that animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use for entertainment."

Fund lack halts census

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ILAGAN, Isabela—The National Statistics Office will not hold the mid-decade population census in May 2005 due to a shortage of funds and the government austerity measures.

Rodolfo Florentino, Isabela statistics officer, said he and other NSO personnel were dismayed at this development because they had started preparations for the census.

He said updated population data would be the basis for the government's delivery of services, the division of congressional seats, the allocation of government resources such as the Internal Revenue Allotment for local governments, and the creation of political units.

Census data are also important in the formulation of policies, plans and programs for health, education, labor, housing, social welfare and immigration, he said.

Schools and business firms also use the data for feasibility studies, research and curriculum designs, he said.

Florentino said the NSO was supposed to hire at least 50,000 enumerators to gather data for the nationwide mid-decade population census.

At least P1 billion is needed by the government to undertake the census nationwide.

The amount will be spent for printing of census materials, training, information dissemination and personnel services, such as travel expenses and the wages of enumerators and supervisors for the monthlong activity.

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Ex-Moro rebs become farming success

From page A1

Zarudin said as he plucked a 3-kg squash.

The cooperative now earns about P500,000 ($8,870) a year, a good beginning considering that Zarudin and his men started from scratch when MNLF leader Nur Misuari signed the peace pact with Manila. As part of the peace deal, Misuari became the governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

But the pact is deemed a failure, with many Muslims still living in poverty. Misuari himself later led a failed rebellion and is now languishing in jail outside Metro Manila.

While noting that many aspects of the peace agreement may have failed, Zarudin said the government had at least succeeded in Polomolok.

Other side of story

"This is the other side of the story. This is truly a success story for the former combatants," said Arnold Dacula, a GEM program coordinator.

"It was hard teaching them at first because they are not used to being ordered around by civilians. They thought farming was something taught in primary schools. But they are now rewarded for their efforts," Dacula added.

Zarudin acknowledged the difficulties that he and his men faced in shifting to farming. "We had to get used to planting instead of carrying our rifles and guns," he said.

Like many of their former comrades, Zarudin and his men initially applied to be integrated into the police or military. They failed to make the grade because many of them did not have formal schooling.

For Zarudin, who had been a guerrilla in the jungles since he was 7 years old, that was a painful reality. He found comfort in his family instead, and began working his parents' modest piece of land in Polomolok.

He and his men were later invited to join the GEM project, given sacks of corn seed and taught scientific methods of farming.

Zarudin and his men now belong to the more than 20,000 rebels-turned-farmers in the sleepy town of Polomolok.

Many of these farmers have formed cooperatives or associations to help sell their produce.

Filipino GEM volunteers act as advisers and connect the former combatants to agricultural companies, which provide training in pest control and fertilizer techniques.

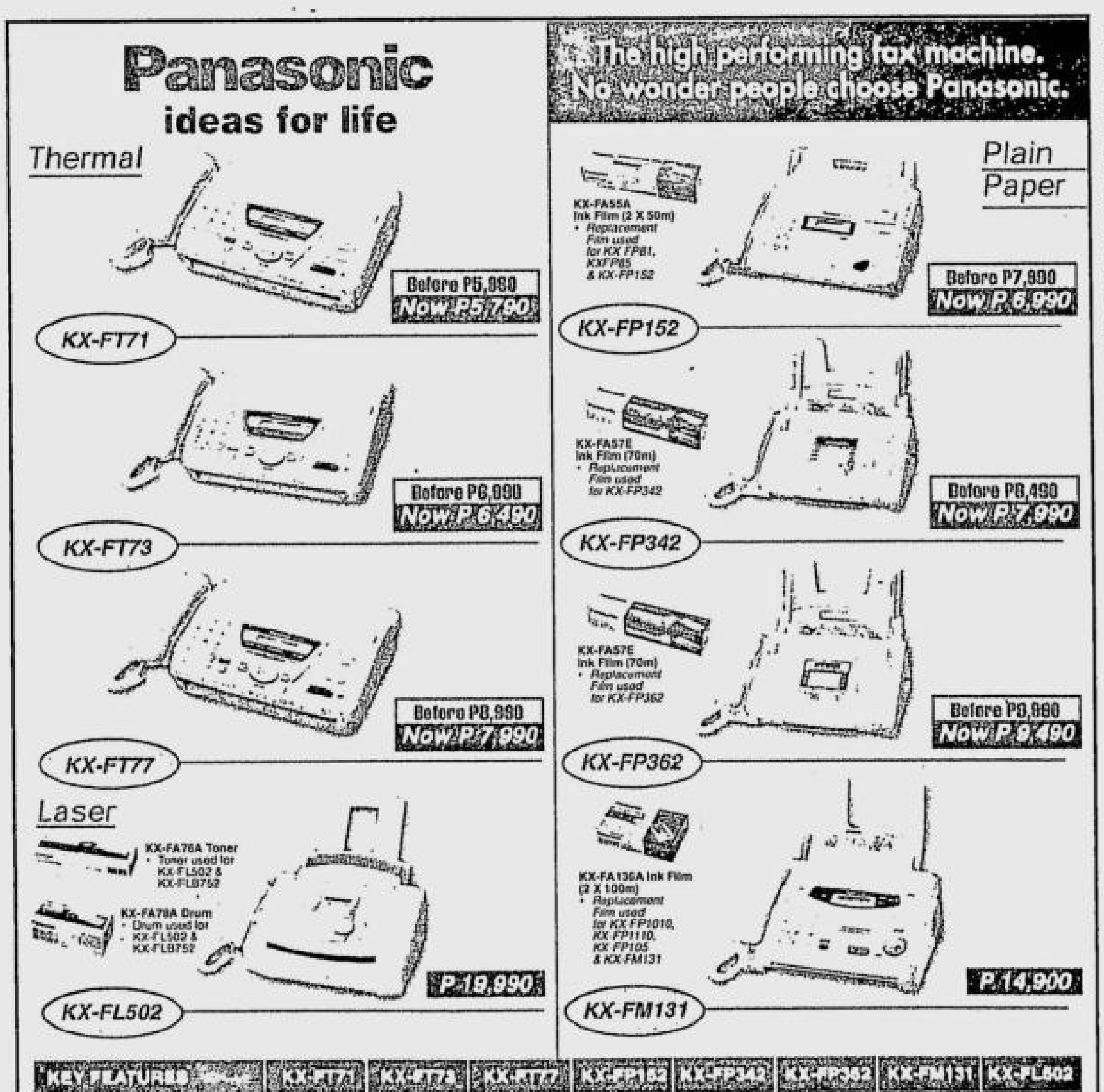
Zarudin's land and those of his fellow farmers in the cooperative are planted with corn, sweet pepper, bitter gourd, cucumber, string beans and tomatoes.

The former MNLF commander now talks in farm jargon, carries an agriculture magazine and regularly consults a GEM volunteer—he says he wants to learn more about organic farming.

His cellular phone rings, and Zarudin consults a blackboard. His weathered brown face breaks into a smile because the call means more orders for his produce.

"Oh, by the way, 'Mapia' means happy in our dialect," Zarudin said, grinning. "Well, we are happy now."

AFP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Top Indian Pharma to Tap Philippine Market

ZYDUS CADILA, a multifaceted, multilocational group and currently the fourth largest Indian pharmaceutical company will soon strengthen its foothold in the Philippine market. By October 2004, the company, in partnership with the fourth national company will launch top quality medicines at affordable prices.

Established in 1952, **ZYDUS CADILA's** association with the healthcare industry spans five decades. With a vision to be one of the leading Asian players in 2010 and a global player in 2020, **ZYDUS** has established a strong presence all over the world especially in the USA and in key European countries. Successful operations in the international market and strengths in research are backed by the **ZYDUS RESEARCH CENTRE** and eight state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities. Most of these facilities have received approvals from the world's leading regulatory authorities specifically, the US Food and Drugs Administration (USFDA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). **ZYDUS** has become the first Indian pharmaceutical company to get a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) certification from the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), Philippines. It is the third company from outside the Philippines- after Pfizer of US and Faulding of Australia- to receive this certification.

Such recognition on quality excellence is critical considering that there are about 24,000 pharmaceutical companies in India. About 300 firms are in the organized sector, 15,000 in the small scale sector while the rest are very small without any economies of scale.

ZYDUS' capacity to provide top quality products at affordable prices can be attributed mainly to its large pool of talents available as well as to its R&D strength. Says **Mr. Pankaj R. Patel**, Chairman and Managing Director of **ZYDUS Group**, "Research is the key to success of any pharmaceutical organization. It brings excitement to scientists, offers value to the company, and does service to humanity".

ZYDUS CADILA's presence will play a significant role here in the Philippines where availability of reasonably priced medicines is crucial to healthcare especially for the masses

Wanted: Guyito

From page A1

coupon. Cut it out and write down your name, address and contact number. Sign it and drop it in entry boxes at designated points all over the country. For more information, check out posters and print ads.

As Guyito, that opinionated but endearing beast (of burden, though clearly not for the duration of this contest), turns 19 along with your favorite newspaper, he plays the role of show master, too, and takes the excitement a notch higher. Catch him in his first-ever series of TV and cinema appearances starting Oct. 1.

Keep your eyes open for more surprises throughout the hunting season, which ends Dec. 14. Or miss out altogether.

FIRST GOLDEN SCREEN AWARDS

'Kapuso' outclasses 'Kapamilya'

By Marinel R. Cruz

BROADCAST network GMA 7 showed ABS-CBN which is better when it bagged 19 of the 28 trophies in the First Golden Screen for Entertainment TV Awards held Saturday night at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

This left the Lopez-owned network settling with only 10 awards.

Its 10th award for the outstanding musical/variety program, which went to "ASAP Mania," was also shared with GMA 7's "Eat Bulaga!"

Tension was high at the AFP Theater, especially when stars of both camps thanked their home networks using their station IDs: "Kapuso" for GMA 7 and "Kapamilya" for ABS-CBN.

GMA 7 talent Rufa Mae Quinto, who won outstanding lead actress in a comedy series for "Idol Ko Si Kap," said "I'm proud to be a Kapuso."

Marvin Agustin, winner of the award for outstanding lead actor in a drama special for "Maalaala Mo Kaya: Boxing Gloves" on ABS-CBN, thanked his ABS-CBN bosses for "believing in me. I used to think I couldn't do it."

GMA's best actresses

Lorna Tolentino was proclaimed outstanding lead actress in a drama series for "Hanggang Kailangan" on GMA 7, while Sunshine Dizon was awarded outstanding lead actress in a drama special for her work in "Magpakailanman: Babangon Din Ang Kahapon," also on GMA 7.

Piolo Pascual brought ABS-CBN its biggest win as outstanding lead actor in a drama series.

For the award, he competed with veteran actors like Eddie Garcia ("Narito Ang Puso Ko," GMA 7), Christopher de Leon ("Hanggang Kailan," GMA 7), Robin Padilla ("Basta't Kasama Kita," ABS-CBN), as well as Jercho Rosales ("Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas," ABS-CBN), Jomari Yllana ("Te Amo," GMA 7) and John Lloyd Cruz ("Tabing Ilog," ABS-CBN).

Rita Avila's work on "Narito ang Puso Ko" for GMA 7 won for her an award under the outstanding supporting actress in a drama series category, while the award for best supporting actress in a comedy series was handed to K Brosas for "Idol Ko Si Kap," also on GMA 7.

Vic Sotto is outstanding lead actor in a comedy series for GMA 7's "Daddy Di Do Du," which also won best comedy series. Meanwhile, Roderick Paulate is best supporting actor in a comedy series for "Ang Tanging Ina" on ABS-CBN.

For his role in "Narito Ang Puso Ko" on GMA 7, Raymond Bagatsing won the best supporting actor in a drama series award. Sylvia Sanchez, on the other hand, won best supporting actress in a drama special for her performance in "Maalaala Mo Kaya: Plake" on ABS-CBN.

Nanding Josef copped the best supporting actor in a drama special for "Maalaala Mo Kaya: Lugaw."

Best comedy shows

Michael V took home the award for outstanding performance in a comedy gag show for "Bubble Gang," which won best gag show for GMA 7. The show's director, Uro dela Cruz, also won outstanding director for a comedy series/comedy gag show.

Jerry Sineneng and Trina Dayrit took home the award for best director for a drama series for "Basta't Kasama Kita," which also won the award for outstanding drama series for ABS-CBN.

Boy Abunda of ABS-CBN's "The Buzz" won outstanding showbiz-oriented program host, but it was GMA 7's "Startalk" that won best showbiz oriented program award.

Ogie Alcasid ("SOP," GMA 7) and Zsa Zsa Padilla ("ASAP Mania," ABS-CBN) won best male and female host in a musical/variety program, respectively. Mel Tiangco was heralded outstanding celebrity talk show host for "Partners with Mel Tiangco" on GMA 7.

Other winners are: "Extra Challenge" (GMA 7), outstanding reality/competition program; "Celebrity Turns (GMA 7), outstanding celebrity talk show; and "Click" (GMA 7), outstanding youth-oriented drama series.

KAPUSO Rufa Mae shows off her award.

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Newspapers retake streets

By Margaux C. Ortiz

AFTER two years of being banned from sidewalks and streets, newspaper vendors went back yesterday using special racks approved by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Newspaper Magazine and Comics Dealers Association of the Philippines (NMCDAP) president Ramon Tapales said the association would be installing 1,000 racks along Edsa from Monumento to Baclaran.

He said 50 racks were initially installed in Munoz, Quezon City. last Friday.

"We are hoping that this project would revive our street sales," Tapales said.

Newspaper dealers had complained that they were really affected by the MMDA's strict campaigns against sidewalk vending.

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1 out of 10 young women gives birth before age 18.*
INTENSE na ito!

At the **International Conference on Population and Development** in 1994, the Philippines vowed to improve the situation of the youth.

Now, 10 years after ICPD, there are many youth who delay their marriage. But more are engaging in premarital sex.

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A call for strong partnership and immediate action by government, civil society and the private sector - for the cause of Filipino women, men, children and youth.

*Source: Pinoy Youth: Making Choices, [illegible]

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A canal to save Caloocan

TO ALLEVIATE flooding in south Caloocan City, Mayor Enrico Echiverri wants a lateral canal built in the middle of C3 Road.

However, the proposed project is too costly for the local government so the mayor is asking the cash-strapped national government to do it.

He said the canal could be integrated in the Camanava Flood Control Project. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

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Gloria orders removal of PNR tracks in Metro

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the sale of land used by the Philippine National Railways (PNR) in Metro Manila, saying she saw no more need for these with the coming on line of the various light railway lines.

Speaking in Legazpi City on Saturday, the President said she already told Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) Secretary Leandro Mendoza to prioritize the sale of the tracks so that the proceeds could be used for the improvement of the railway system from Makati City to the Bicol Region.

While it offers low passenger fares for both its economy and air-conditioned coaches, the PNR has become an unpopular mode of transportation in the Bicol Region due to the longer hours of travel.

As a result, less passengers patronize it.

PNR officials have blamed the emergence of new buses plying Bicol to Metro Manila and vice versa for the low passenger turnout.

PNR has been assailed by most sectors in the region for alleged poor service and nonfunctional railroads, especially in remote areas from Legazpi to Tabaco City. Both sides of the railroad tracks are now crowded with squatters, especially in urban centers.

During Saturday's press conference, the President reiterated that improving the PNR Makati-Bicol route is in the top priority programs of her administration.

"Bicol, as the second poorest region next to ARMM, will also get the second most priority attention of my administration," Ms Arroyo vowed.

She also announced the appointment of former Bicolano senator Victor Ziga as the new PNR chair. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

All 3 suspects in journalist's slay arrested

THE THREE suspects in the killing of Today newspaper assistant business editor Jose Luis Villanueva are already in police custody.

The Pasay City police arrested Henry Lizardo, 24, and Gerry Cecilio, 26, both members of Sigue-Sigue Sputnik Gang at Twin Tower Ext., Pasay City, before dawn Sunday.

Chief Insp. Joaquin Alva said they found a plastic replica of a hand grenade stuffed with firecracker powder and glass shards, and a fan knife in their possession.

The arrest of the two other suspects came after suspect Rommel Capones, 21, who was first to be captured, dropped their names, said Alva.

Capones denied his involvement in the crime but was identified by witnesses.

In a video confession, Lizardo admitted that he tried to grab the Nokia 7610 cell phone from the victim while they were on board the Laguna Star Friday morning.

When the victim resisted, Capones joined in and stabbed him in the neck. Cecilio acted as a lookout. *Ruth L. Navarra*

Frat men fail to bare support for examinees

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FOR THE first time in six years, the sight of fraternity men baring their support for their brothers taking the bar exams went missing on Taft Avenue in Manila.

On the thoroughfare fronting the De La Salle University, undressed members of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity were out of sight for their annual naked run.

Earlier, Ma. Cristina Layusa, Supreme Court Deputy Clerk of Court and Bar Confidant, wrote Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and branded the annual run as a practice that "is against moral decency and good customs, and punishable under the Revised Penal Code."

Also, the letter asked City Hall to prohibit parades of groups from different law schools since these "create so much noise which distract examinees, and create heavy traffic that affects thousands of motorists and commuters."

Layusa's letter could not have come at a worse time for the naked runners.

Naked at the park

Two weeks ago, City Hall was shaken when sexy stars held a mid-afternoon photo session at the Rajah Sulayman Park wearing clothes that barely covered their bodies.

The nine women and their manager face charges of public scandal.

More than 30 full-fledged APO brothers were supposed to run the northbound lane of Taft Avenue between Vito Cruz and Quirino Avenue, in front of the De La Salle University.

"There is nothing we could do," said APO president Rodrigo Mapoy. "If we push through with it, our brothers will be at risk."

He was referring to Western Police District members sent to maintain peace and order in the area.

However, despite the police presence, an APO member still managed to show his support for his fraternity brothers when he took off his shirt and pulled down his pants while shielded by other APO members.

Mapoy, who led hundreds of APO members from law schools around the country to support APO bar examinees, said they would just think of another gimmick to pull next year.

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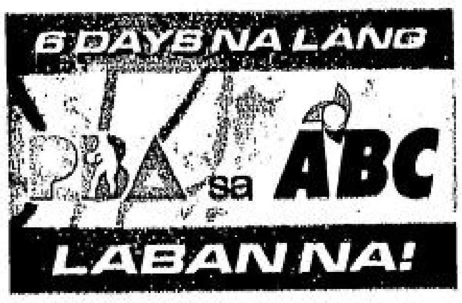

MONDAY,
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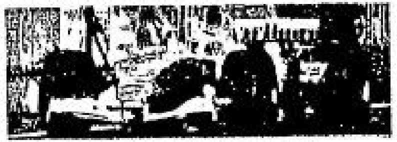
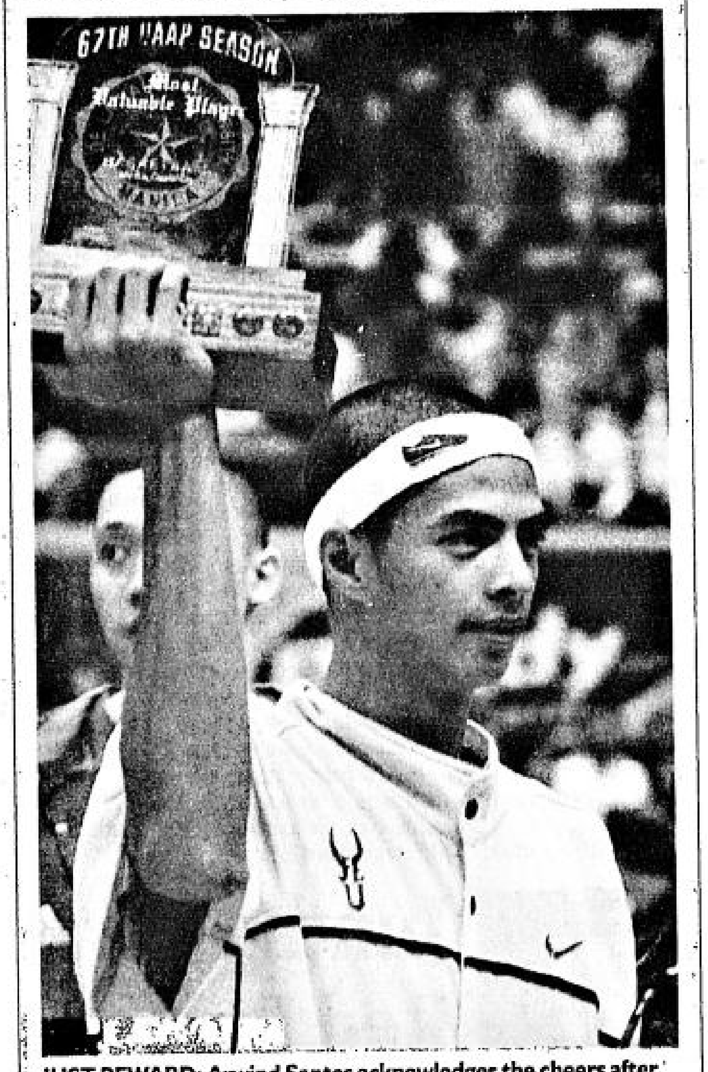


- **Jamaican Johnson flattens Jones** /A30
- **Rubens pockets 2nd F1 triumph** /A30

- **US sweeps foes, reaches Davis final** /A30

- **Navy tandem tops Petron beach volley** /A27
- **Singh nears Tiger's money record** /A29



JUST REWARD: Arwind Santos acknowledges the cheers after edging out La Salle's Mark Cardona for the MVP award. JESS YUSON

Do-it-all FEU forward is MVP

WHEN his name was finally called, Arwind Santos bowed, made the sign of the cross and received with a smile his trophy as the 2004 UAAP season's Most Valuable Player.

There was no outpouring of emotion, no flowery speech. There was no sign at all that college basketball's best player had come a long way from collecting a variety of odd jobs to help his family before reaching this moment.

"Perhaps this is my reward for all my efforts," said the lean 6-foot-4 Santos, who also bagged the defensive player of the year award, a testament to the versatility he provides the FEU Tamaraws all season.

Santos edged out La Salle hotshot Mark Cardona in one of the closest races for the MVP trophy.

"It was a good competition," Cardona said of the MVP race.

Cardona, Santos, Ateneo standouts Paolo Bugia and LA Tenorio and FEU playmaker Dennis Miranda were named

DO-IT-ALL/ A30

Santos, Tams force playoff with Archers

GAMES THURSDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo (Women's-Game 1 Finals)
4 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Srs-Game 3 Finals)

By Jasmine W. Payo

AS THE clock wound down, Most Valuable Player Arwind Santos raised a clenched fist in celebration. It was payback time indeed for the Far Eastern U Tamaraws.

The defending champions were not about to be swept this season as the Tamaraws outclassed the De La Salle Archers, 67-57, yesterday to force a rubber match this Thursday for the 67th UAAP varsity basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

"It was a no-tomorrow situation for us and this game showed how resilient these players are. I'd like to thank God for giving us the wisdom to handle the pressure," said FEU coach Koy Banal.

The Tamaraws came up with a balanced offensive in getting back at the Archers, with RJ Rizada leading with 13 points and Santos posting a double-double with 10 markers and 15 rebounds.

"I don't like to boast but what Arwind (Santos), Denok (Miranda) and all the other veterans said before the game gave us the confidence. They promised to win this one," added Banal, whose Tamaraws halted La Salle's nine-game winning streak..

"We were united this time, unlike in the first game," said Santos.

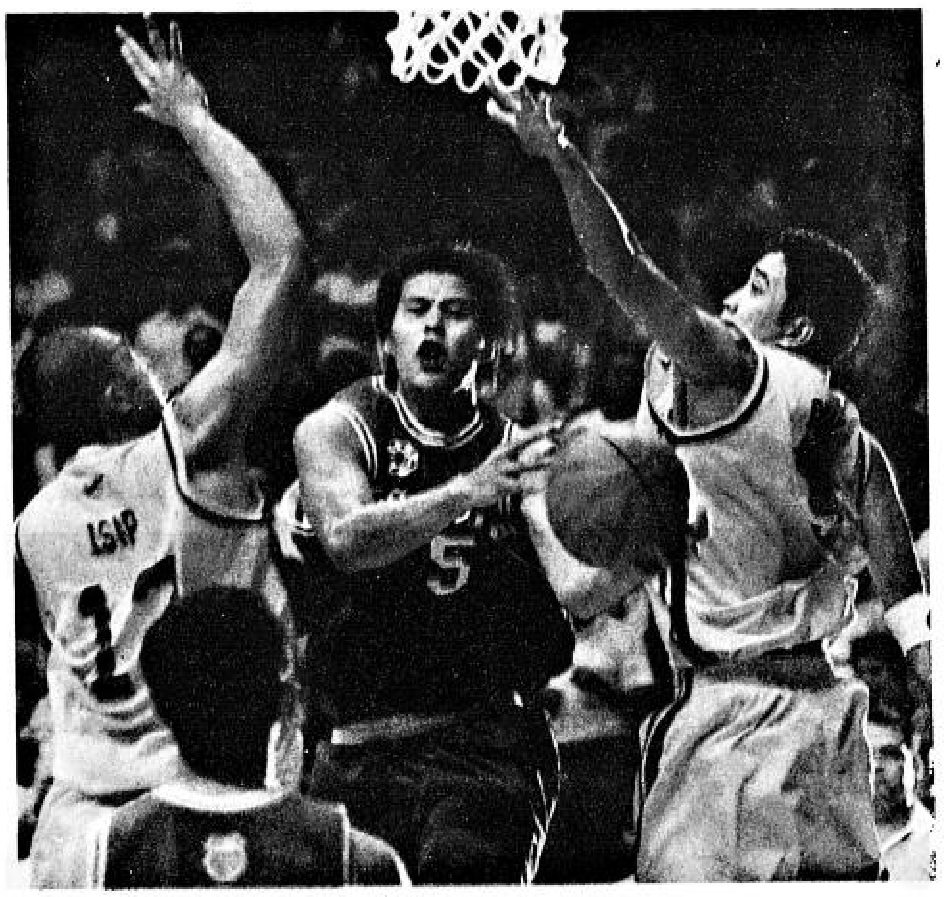
The Tamaraws' aggressiveness was evident right from the tip-off, zooming to a double-digit lead at the half, 42-32, before La Salle staged a furious rally in the third quarter to pull within two points, 50-48.

"I reminded them to count our blessings. We were still up by two. There's no need to panic," recounted Banal.

The Tamaraws responded with a 10-0 outburst for a 60-48 advantage midway in the final quarter and the Archers didn't threaten from there.

Mac Cardona, beaten for the MVP plum by Santos, was the only Archer in double figures for La Salle with a game-high 18 points.

In junior play, the Ateneo Eaglets swept the University of Santo Tomas Tiger Cubs, 58-44, for their second straight title.



FAR Eastern's Mark Isip and Jeffrey Chan gang up on a driving Jun Cabatu of La Salle in the game yesterday. JESS YUSON

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

ATENEO 58—Reyes 20, Nadal 14, Dizon 6, Tuason 6, Medina 4, Perez 4, Tingson 2, Manlapaz 2, Santos 0, Austria 0, Fernandez 0, Chiu 0, Abellada 0, Gamboa 0.

UST 44—Basa 9, Crisostomo 7, Revereza 7, Badua 6, Mejica 4, Alnajes 3, Abad 3, Fran 2, Zapanta 2, Panahon 1, Dela Cruz 0.

Quarters: 23-8, 27-32, 45-37, 58-44.

Second Game (Srs)

FEU 67—Rizada 13, Chan 11, Santos 10, Miranda 10, Isip 7, Yabut 6, Flores 5, Cutler 3, Garcia 2, Mangahas 0, Dela Cruz 0, Barcellano 0.

LA SALLE 57—Cardona 18, Yeo 8, Tang 8, Cabatu 6, Araña 4, Villanueva 3, Maierhoffer 3, Benitez 3, Walsham 2, Gaco 2, Cua 0, Casio 0.

Quarters: 18-14, 42-32, 50-48, 67-57.

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Peping says let's help each other

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

LISTEN to this heartfelt message, texted from somewhere out there.

"How are you? I'm out, staring at the heavens, alone. It's lonely out here. It's so sudden, things changed so fast. Everybody, my whole family, is with me. But I have no life here, *wala akong buhay dito*."

The sender failed to state his location and identity. I could only surmise it was sent from the Bay Area in California.

I texted back, begged him to state his name.

There has been no reply.

Makes you feel sad, too.

Listen again. "Mayor Atienza and I have been talking. I did conceive of the deal only after I had talked with him. There have been many developments, we continue to explore possibilities. But whatever happens, let's help each other."

That's the latest line from former Tarlac congressman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the famous politician who has ventured into the thankless job of trying to save Philippine sports.

Mr. Cojuangco, as you must know by now, has declared his candidacy for the presidency of the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Celso Dayrit has remained POC head but, based on statements, open declaration of support from majority of the voting bodies, Cojuangco should be a shoo-in for the tough job.

After we talked to him on the phone last Friday, our reporter on the battle scene, Marc Anthony Reyes, sent in a story stating that, thus far, at least 22 of 36 national sports associations have pledged support for Cojuangco in the POC race.

***

Well, it won't be an easy journey Cojuangco would be taking.

Sure as he could be in snaring the POC presidency from Dayrit, the job of steering RP sports back to a glorious path could be a very lonely one.

At least, in Cojuangco's case, he won't be caught staring at the skies alone in the night, just like that texter whose message we had printed here.

Yes, Cojuangco won't be lacking in friends and backers.

As for Dayrit, what's generally considered his impending exit could prove to be a blessing in disguise. As one of his aides explained, Dayrit had been caught in a no-win situation.

It was stated that, as POC head, Dayrit did not have the means and power to steer or oversee the development of Philippine sports.

The function of the POC chief, it was stated, was very peculiar in that Dayrit could not interfere directly with the affairs of individual national sports associations. Dayrit's hands were tied in this area of concern, his aide explained.

***

Well, if that's true, Cojuangco this early appears ready to take the fight for the revival of RP sports to a different plain.

In fact, he has lined up what could be described a win-win menu. This early, he has already announced plans to put up a national sports training center at Clark Field in Pampanga.

It was a bright, happy ploy but we ended up playing killjoy after we noted that the Cojuangco plan to sell the historic Rizal Memorial Sports Complex was not legally feasible.

We stated that, much as he and President Macapagal Arroyo may like to sell RMSC, legal questions are bound to stall them. For one, RMSC doesn't belong to the national government.

***

At least, Cojuangco had admitted that the proposed sale could not push through smoothly because he was still negotiating with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

For his part, Atienza told Manila Standard reporter Tony Macapagal last week that the RMSC "is not for sale." Said Atienza, as quoted by Macapagal: "With due respect to intentions for an RP sports training center, I beg to disagree with Mr. Cojuangco's plans to dispose of the RMSC."

Atienza clarified that the RMSC belongs to the City of Manila and it is, in fact, one of the so-called four jewels the city government has been trying to recover or redeem after it was taken away by virtue of a presidential decree during martial law.

Well, the RMSC is considered major ammunition in the Cojuangco program for national sports recovery because, as proposed, money realized from its sale would go to the establishment of a national sports training center.

He did not say it but, knowing Cojuangco, he must have other aces up his sleeves in case of a misdeal in his gamble for the outdated Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Junthy keys Red Bull win over Jones Cup champ

RED BULL Barako got its hands full against Jones Cup champion You Lon of Chinese Taipei Saturday, but still managed to pull through, 85-79, for its fifth straight victory in the 4th Shell Invitational basketball tournament at the Berakas Indoor Stadium in Brunei.

Junthy Valenzuela led the Barakos' fierce stand, scoring 16 points in the final quarter as coach Yeng Guiao's charges remained unbeaten in the seven-team tournament which offers close to a million pesos to the champion.

"It was close all the way, but the boys kept their focus and defended well," said Guiao later.

The Taiwanese kept a one-point lead in the fourth quarter until Davonn Harp and Enrico Villanueva hit big baskets inside. Vergel Meneses fired a triple at the buzzer to finalize the count.

Five Barakos scored in double figures with Valenzuela topscoring with 20 points. Villanueva had 19 points and eight rebounds and Harp finished with 17 points and seven rebounds.

You Lon import McGinnis paced the Taiwanese with 29 while Chou An tallied 23.

Red Bull had previously beaten the Shanghai Sharks, Spring Cooking Oil, Brunei's national team and Purefoods.

The Taiwanese surged to an early 10-0 lead, but Harp and Villanueva sparked a 9-2 run to close in at 9-12. Meneses scored seven points in the second quarter to give Red Bull its first lead, 34-32. Shifting to a zone defense, the Taiwanese unleashed a 9-1 run to move ahead, 41-35.

RP riders kick off bid in Tour of Indonesia

THE RP-PAGCOR Casino Filipino cycling squad hits the road today with the start of the Dji Sam Soe Tour of Indonesia—a 182.-kilometer uphill drive from the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, to Subang Lembang.

"The boys are in high spirits. They are eager to make up for their performance in their previous outings," said Rick Rodriguez, RP-Pagcor Casino Filipino team manager.

Rhyan Tanguilig, the 2004 Tour Pilipinas champion, Tour runner-up Lloyd Reynante, Albert Primero, Bernard Luzon and up-and-coming Joel Calderon will spearhead the country's bid in the Tour of Indonesia.

Among the other countries competing in the nine-day, 1,503-km cycling marathon are Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam and the Belgium-based Marco Polo Racing Team.

Wong Kam-po, who won the 1997 Marlboro Tour, banners powerhouse Hong Kong.

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Navy tandem tops Petron beach volley

SUBIC—Another Philippine Navy team, this time composed of Michelle Laborte and Cecille Tabuena, emerged champion of the 2004 Petron Ladies' Beach Volleyball Tournament's third leg at the sand courts near the Boardwalk here yesterday.

The Navy duo brushed aside the challenge of the Air Force's Rubie de Leon and Theresa May de la Rosa in two sets, 21-14, 21-17, to capture the title and the P10,000 cash prize.

The Navy tandem clinched a berth to the national finals of the beach volley extravaganza in December this year at a still unnamed venue, where they will vie against past champions of the Petron series.

Tisha Abundo, former commissioner of the Philippine Sports Commission and tournament organizer, awarded the trophy and cash prize to Tabuena and Laborte assisted by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's tourism chief, Godofredo Manuel.

"The finals cast is now complete. We expect a huge grand finale this December," said Abundo.

Tabuena and Laborte, who completed a six-game sweep of the two-day meet, battled early jitters in the championship as they trailed the Air Force duo at 6-8 and 7-9, before stringing six straight points, four on service winners, to seize control of the match at 13-9.

Unstoppable with their spikes and nifty set plays, Laborte and Tabuena then built a huge 19-12 lead before cruising along for the first-set victory in the tourney also backed by Universal Motors Corp., Isuzu Phils., and VIA Events and Sports.

They encountered stiffer resistance in the second set, with De Leon and De la Rosa keeping the game close at 9-10, before the Navy spikers took control at 16-11.

"I think we were just lucky. Theresa and Rubie were tired because they had to win twice in the semifinals before entering the championship round," said Laborte.

In that tournament, Laborte and Tabuena will battle the Petron series' past champions, including their teammates, Helen Dosdos and Johanna Carpio, the event's second-leg champions.

TISHA Abundo (left) awards the trophy to third-leg champions Michelle Laborte and Cecille Tabuena of the Philippine Navy.

Bondad out of RP team

Lady golfer not available after all

By Musong R. Castillo

FRANCES Bondad, the Australia-based teener who is the reigning Philippine Ladies' Amateur champion, has been stricken off the RP Team to the World Amateur championships in Puerto Rico next month.

The 16-year-old, who is supposed to be the spearhead of the team that also includes Anya Tanpinco and Jayvee Agojo, was dropped after she failed to arrive on Friday from Australia for training.

Bondad was earlier tapped for the world joust by the National Golf Association of the Philippines after she promised to join her teammates for training before the team's departure for Puerto Rico.

"The schedule of training and the World Am itself will take too much time and will affect her schooling," said Alice Andrada, the non-playing captain for the ladies' team.

This has left the door open for Carmelette Villaroman and Lora Roberto, who tied for second place after 144 holes of the NGAP evaluation series held two weeks ago.

Named co-alternates after the evaluation series, they will now start a three-round playoff for the last slot tomorrow at Villamor.

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20-city sked in PBA's 1 RP Cup

A TWENTY-CITY tour will be one of the highlights of the One Philippines Cup, the first conference of the 2004-2005 Philippine Basketball Association season which opens on Sunday.

All 10 teams are slated to appear in four provincial games in keeping with the league's pledge to bring live hardcourt action from Laoag City in Ilocos Norte down to Zamboanga City.

A record 18 provinces will host the PBA games in 10 weeks spanning three months of elimination-round play.

The kickoff out-of-town game will be between San Miguel Beer and Sta. Lucia on Oct. 7 in Zamboanga City and will culminate on Dec. 21 when San Miguel Beer and Coca-Cola face off in Laoag.

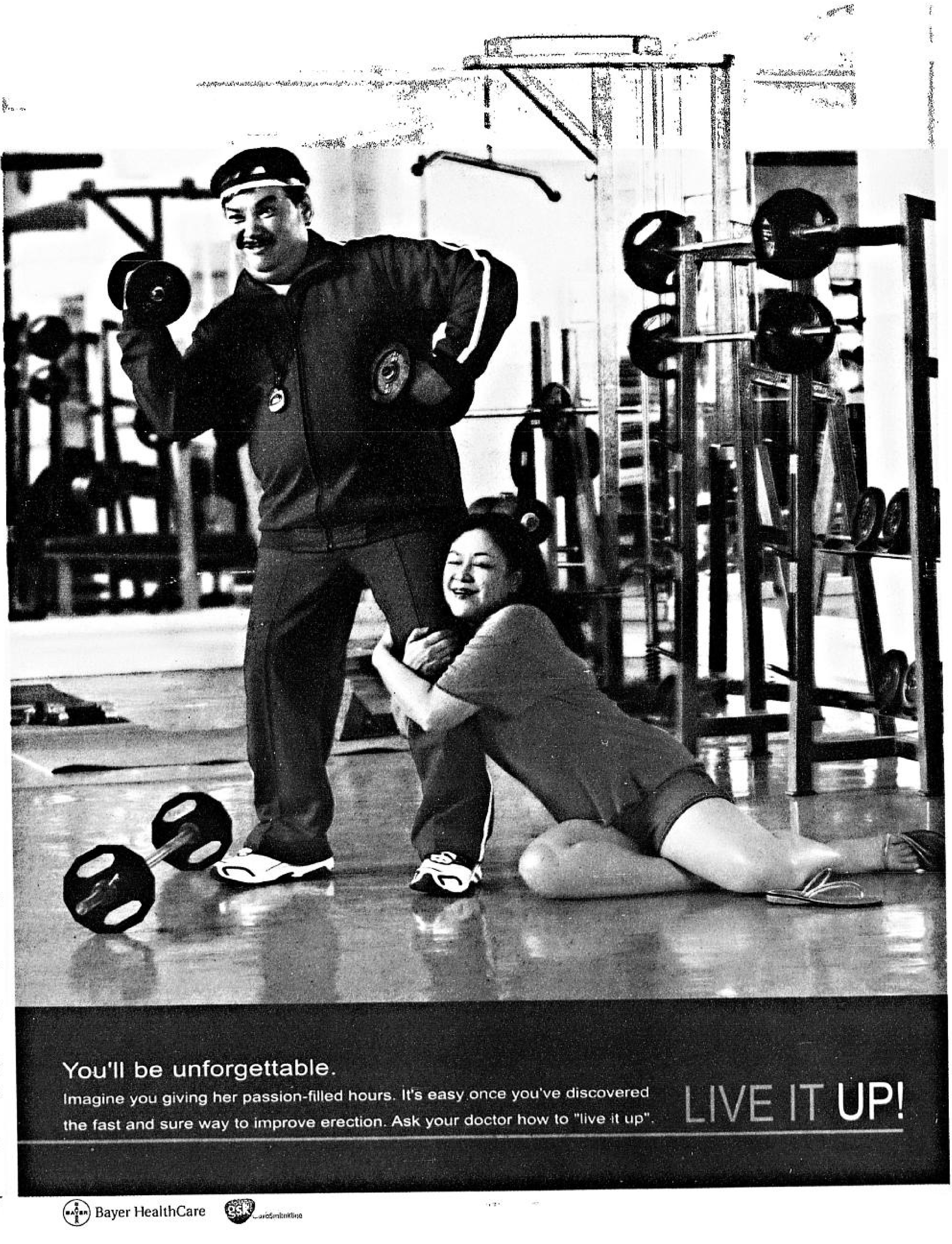
The provincial games will be held twice a week, on Tuesday and Thursday. ABC-5, the league's official television coveror, will carry the Thursday game live while the Tuesday game will be telecast on a delayed basis following the live game on Thursday.

The complete schedule:

San Miguel-Sta. Lucia, Oct. 7, Zamboanga City; Red Bull-Shell, Oct. 12, Cagayan de Oro; Coca-Cola-Alaska, Oct. 14, Butuan City; Talk 'N Text-Purefoods, Oct. 19, Dumaguete; Red Bull-Shell, Oct. 26, Bacolod; Shell-Alaska, Oct. 28 Iloilo.

Ginebra-Coca-Cola, Nov. 4, General Santos; Talk 'N Text-FedEx, Nov. 9, Ormoc City; San Miguel-Purefoods, Nov. 11, Tacloban; Ginebra-Sta. Lucia, Nov. 16, Cebu City; Talk 'N Text-Alaska, Nov. 18, Palawan; Red Bull-FedEx, Nov. 23, Lucena City; San Miguel-Shell, Nov. 25, Santa Cruz; Talk 'N Text-Sta. Lucia, Nov. 30, Cavite.

Coca-Cola-Purefoods, Dec. 2, Lipa City; Alaska-FedEx, Dec. 7, Subic; Coca-Cola-FedEx and Ginebra-Shell, Dec. 9, Bataan; Red Bull-Purefoods, Dec. 14, Baguio City; San Miguel-Coca-Cola, Dec. 16, Dagupan City.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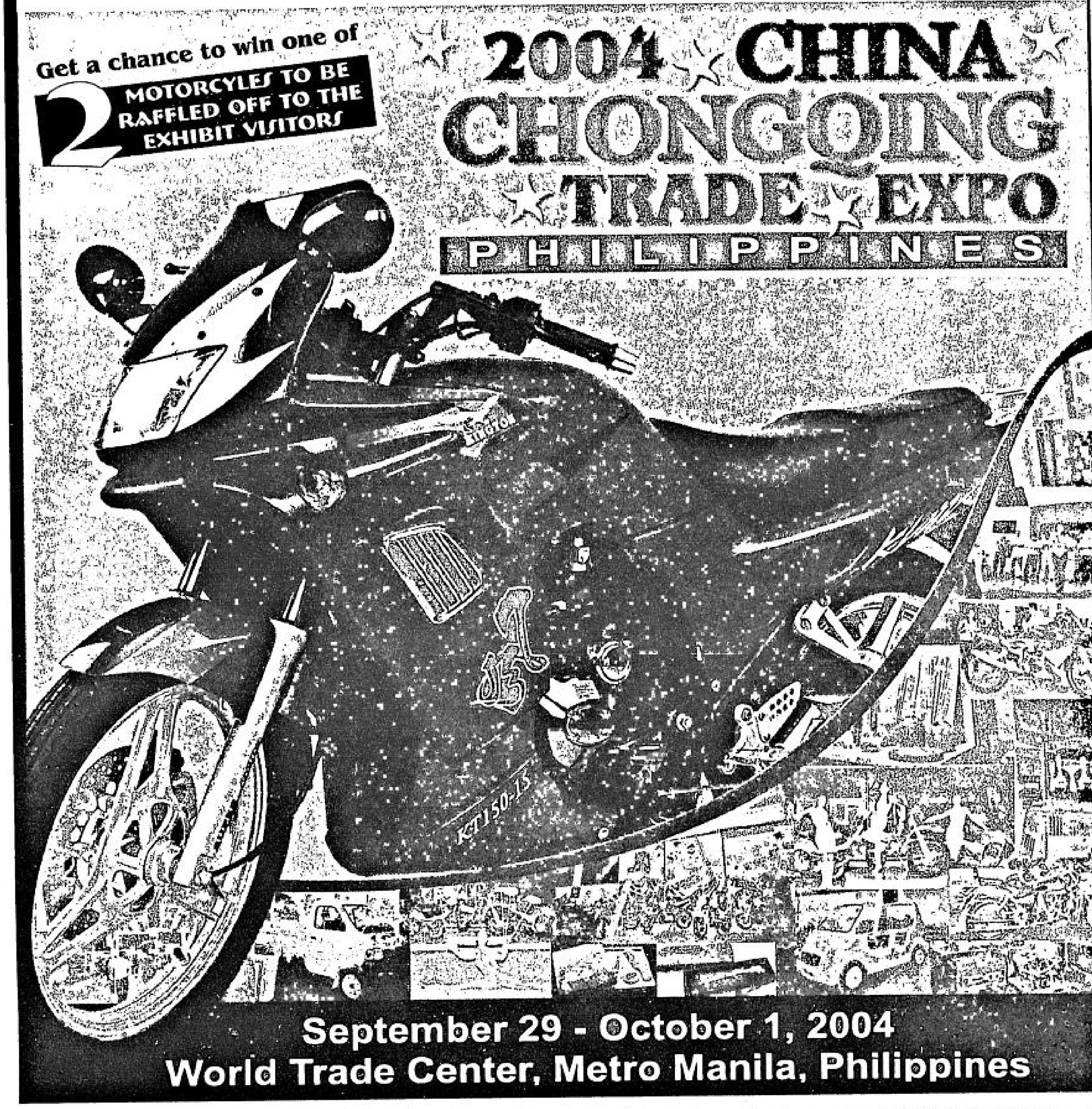

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SPEAKER:
MR. QIFAN HUANG

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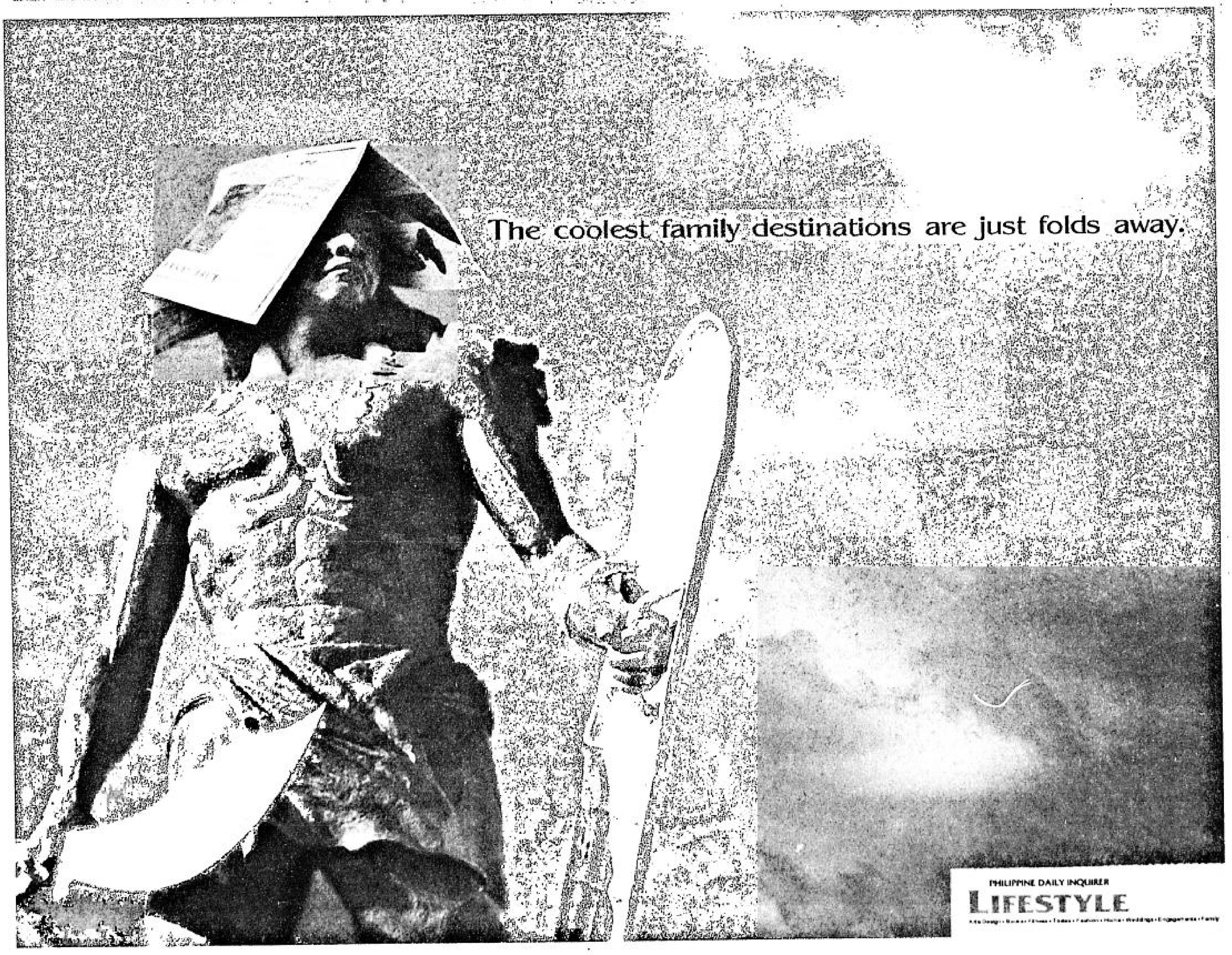

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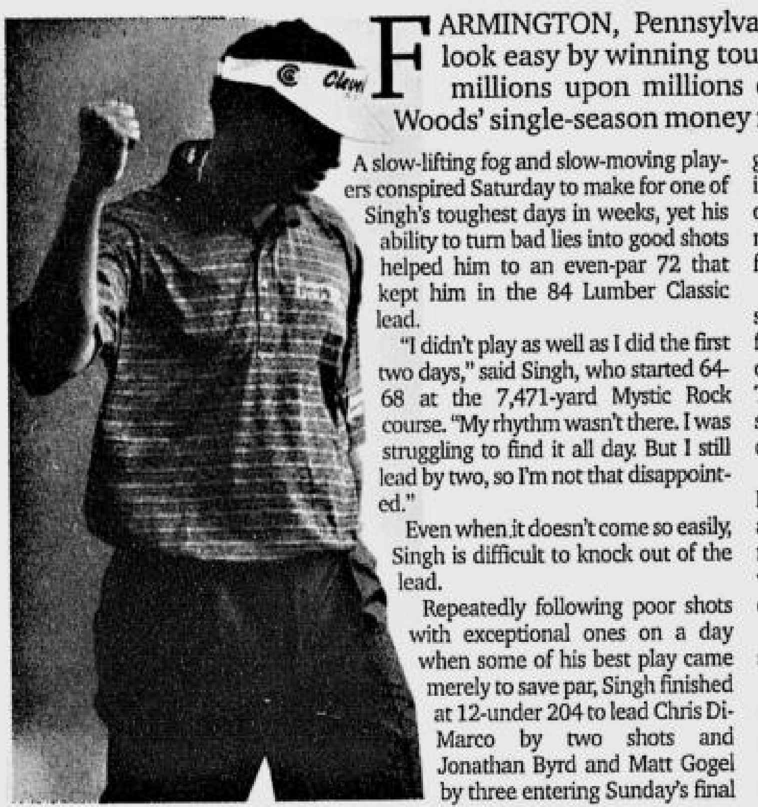
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE

Singh still ahead

World No. 1 nears Tiger's money record



VIJAY Singh celebrates after holing out for par on the 16th hole. AFP

FARMINGTON, Pennsylvania—Vijay Singh is making it look easy by winning tournament after tournament, and millions upon millions of dollars, while chasing Tiger Woods' single-season money record.

A slow-lifting fog and slow-moving players conspired Saturday to make for one of Singh's toughest days in weeks, yet his ability to turn bad lies into good shots helped him to an even-par 72 that kept him in the 84 Lumber Classic lead.

"I didn't play as well as I did the first two days," said Singh, who started 64-68 at the 7,471-yard Mystic Rock course. "My rhythm wasn't there. I was struggling to find it all day. But I still lead by two, so I'm not that disappointed."

Even when it doesn't come so easily, Singh is difficult to knock out of the lead.

Repeatedly following poor shots with exceptional ones on a day when some of his best play came merely to save par, Singh finished at 12-under 204 to lead Chris DiMarco by two shots and Jonathan Byrd and Matt Gogel by three entering Sunday's final round.

Singh can break Woods' single-season money record of $9.1 million set in 2000 by winning the $756,000 first prize, or, if he plays in two late-season no-cut tournaments that offer guaranteed money, by finishing second.

Heavy fog shrouded the mountaintop resort course for the third straight morning, forcing a delay in play and the decision to go out in threesomes rather than twosomes. That meant some players, including Singh, started earlier than expected so the finish could be televised.

Play lagged all day as a result, with Singh, DiMarco and Ben Curtis needing 5 hours and 20 minutes for their round—about 80 minutes slower than usual. That's why Singh wasn't surprised when the quality of play dropped off late in the afternoon, too.

"The pace of play was strained," Singh said. "You play the holes and then you wait 10 minutes on the next tee. I called it (to the attention) of the official on the 10th hole, and it didn't seem to help much."

DiMarco also disliked the pace, and the decision to play in threes.

"We would have finished before (Friday's ending time) easily in twosomes," he said. *AP*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) invites all interested bidders to participate in the bidding for the following:

		Approved Budget
I.	Security Services for the Department of Labor And Employment Central Office for the Period January to December 2005	P 5,298,906.05
II.	Janitorial Services for the Department of Labor And Employment Central Office for the Period January to December 2005	P 4,071,874.47

Interested bidders must register and submit registration requirements to the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor, DOLE Bldg., Muralla Street, Intramuros, Manila starting September 20, 2004. The checklist of requirements for registration may be secured from the same office. Deadline for registration is on October 4, 2004.

Only bidders duly registered with the DOLE may be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference on **October 5, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. for security services** and on **October 6, 2004 at 2:00 p.m. for janitorial services** at the DOLE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila.

Eligibility check requirements shall be distributed during the Pre-bid Conference or they can be secured from the Property Division, Administrative Service, 2nd Floor DOLE Bldg., Intramuros, Manila starting October 6, 2004.

Eligibility documents shall be submitted to the DOLE Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at the DOLE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila, on **October 19, 2004 for security services** and on **October 20, 2004 for janitorial services between 1:00-2:00 p.m. only** in a sealed envelope marked with the title of the item/project to be bid and the name of the bidder addressed to the undersigned. Registered bidders are invited to witness the eligibility check on said date at exactly 2:00 p.m. at the same venue.

The deadline for the submission of bids will be on **October 28, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. for security services** and on **October 29, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. for janitorial services** at the DOLE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE Executive Building, San Jose Street, Intramuros, Manila. The PUBLIC BIDDING shall follow with the participation of eligible bidders. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested bidders are requested to present their proposals, personally or through their authorized representatives, on the date of the bidding. The DOLE reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any informality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the Department. The DOLE assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For further inquries/information, please get in touch with Ms. Lily Pearl L. Guerrero and Ms. Liberty C. Angeles, members of the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 527-3480 and 527-3583.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MA. ANTHONETTE VELASCO-ALLONES
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee and Assistant Secretary

(PDI – Sept. 19 & 27, 2004)

Cebu fives shoot for 2nd wins

GAMES TODAY (*Bogo Sports Complex*)
4 p.m.—Quezon Coco Huskers vs M. Lhuillier-Cebu City
6 p.m.—Lactovitale-Cebu Province vs Harbour Centre-Pampanga

BOGO, CEBU—Local squads M. Lhuillier-Cebu City Jewelers and Lactovitale-Cebu Province Probiotics, fresh off victories on opening day, shoot for their second straight wins against separate opponents today at the resumption of the first United Regional Basketball League (URBL) at the Bogo Sports Complex here.

Host team Lactovitale of Cebu Vice Gov. Greg Sanchez, former Rep. Celestino "Junie" Martinez Jr. and businessman Joe Soberano will test the debuting Harbour Centre-Pampanga of brothers Mikee and Nikki Romero in the main game at 6 p.m.

The Jewelers of businessman Michel Lhuillier battle the Quezon Coco Huskers of Gov. Willie Enverga in the 4 p.m. opener.

Lactovitale beat the Huskers, 82-77, Saturday.

Harbour coach Alex Gonzales is expected to have his hands full orchestrating a tougher defense against 6-8 behemoth Bonel Balingit who scored 21 points in the victory over the Huskers.

PSC launches fitness video

PHILIPPINE Sports Commission (PSC) chair Eric Buhain and Civil Service Commission (CSC) chair Karina Constantino-David will lead today the launching of the exercise video in celebration of the 104th anniversary of the Philippine Civil Service at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The 30-minute exercise video, in VCD format, aims to promote physical fitness among government employees and will be used after the weekly Monday flag-raising rites.

Produced by the PSC and supported by Streetpark Productions, Gold's Gym, Intrasports and Accel, "Bidyo Ehersisyo, Bisyo Ko 'to" encourages employees to undertake a healthy lifestyle even after the month-long anniversary celebration.

"As the top government body tasked with sports development, we hope to inspire not only fellow workers in government but also other sectors in institutionalizing physical fitness and well-being as a cornerstone of a progressive nation," said Buhain.

Badminton tilt registration on

REGISTRATION for the inaugural JVC Open Badminton Intercollegiate Championships is now ongoing with deadline set on Nov. 5.

The event, slated Nov. 10-16 at the PowerSmash Badminton Center and at the Glorietta in Makati, is open to all schools with the draw to be held Nov. 7 at the Kenny Rogers along Katipunan Ave. in Quezon City. Registration is free.

For details and entry form, visit the tournament's website at www.jvcbadminton.com. For inquiries, call 7252568/ 0917-5288970 (Nelson), 0918-5094845 (Joann), or e-mail jvcbadminton@hotmail.com.

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

Date: September 24, 2004
Contract No. BCMD.2004-003R

1. Contract No.: BCMD.2004-003R Consultancy Services for TransCo 2003 External Asset Valuation Project
2. The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of rendering consultancy services as required in the scope of work specified in the Eligibility Documents and/or the Terms of Reference.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid from the Internal Cash Generation is P63,227,917.00.
4. Application for Eligibility is open to all Filipino and foreign consultants, whether sole proprietorship, partnership, joint venture or corporation, who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract bid.
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by TransCo in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the supplier's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Post qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be subjected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility Forms and Documents will be available for issuance on September 27, 2004 at the **Bids and Contract Management Department**, Ground Floor, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-23-08 upon presentation of letter of Intent and a payment of non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms, statements shall be on or before October 18, 2004, and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission shall not be accepted.
8. Consultants not yet included in the TransCo's List of registered Consultants/Suppliers/Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A certificate of Registration will be issued to consultants/contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Taxpayer's Identification Number;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;

   For foreign bidders, the required documents applicable to entities doing business in the Philippines shall be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by foreign bidder's country, which documents shall be duly acknowledged and/or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate therein.

   Note: Prospective bidders are allowed to submit the above requirements together with their Eligibility Forms and Documents during the deadline for the submission of Eligibility requirements.
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive and required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. The Contract to be bid shall be governed by the Provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
11. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) DOMINADOR S. GEONZON
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 27, 2004)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 009-2004
03 September 2004

TO : **All Regional/Assistant Directors**
Chiefs/OICs, District/Extension Offices
and Other Employees Concerned

SUBJECT : **Guidelines and Procedures in the Issuance of the 2004 Optional Motor Vehicle Special Plates (OMVSP)**

Pursuant to the provisions of Batas Pambansa Bilang 43, Batas Pambansa Bilang 74, and Republic Act No. 4136, and in view of the impending exhaustion of combinations of alphanumeric characters under the current format of license plates and as an additional source of revenue for the government, the following guidelines and procedures in the issuance of the 2004 Optional Motor Vehicle Special Plates are hereby promulgated for the guidance of all concerned:

Section 1. Background

The existing alpha-numeric numbering system currently being utilized for issuance of regular license plates to new motor vehicle registration is about to be depleted, especially those assigned to the National Capital Region, Region 3 and 4. Likewise, there has been increasing requests for specific alpha-numeric combinations for their plates. Hence, the introduction of a different sets of alpha-numeric combination system is needed.

Section 2. The 2004 Optional Motor Vehicle Special Plates (OMVSP)

The utilization of the 01-100 numeric characters to be matched to ALPHAS, as in three (3) letter and two (2)/three (3) number character combinations, for issuance to all regions, will solve the problem on depleted alpha-numeric character combinations.

Corollary to this, based on experience, Philippine motorists like those in other Asian countries choose preferred alpha-numeric characters for personal identification purposes. Accordingly, the issuance of the 01-100 numeric characters coupled with choice alphas provides a good opportunity for LTO to increase its revenue by setting aside a different pricing schemes for the said plates.

2.1 The letters "I", "O" and "Q" shall be considered since these letters have been issued as special license plates. Letter "O" should be changed to a different font so as not to confuse with number 0 (zero).

2.2 By utilizing letters "I", "O" and "Q" in the current and proposed format of pair series, the resulting supply will be sufficient to meet the needs of the LTO clientele.

2.3 As source of additional revenue, increased cost shall be collected for production of unissued motor vehicle license plates with choice characters such as triple-alpha; triple-numeric; numeric characters 168; any numeric combination with identical first and third characters i.e. 101 and 707; and any combinations not forming part of the regular series of license plates when requested for production by a motorist.

Section 3. Coverage

The motor vehicle special license plate consists of alpha-numeric combinations and is considered as a regular license plate (one pair). It is issued only upon application by the owner of a brand new private motor vehicle which is for **initial registration** with the Land Transportation Office. The units covered are as follows:

1.1 Cars
1.2 Sports Utility Vehicles (SUV)
1.3 Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV)
1.4 Sports Pick-up
1.5 Commuter Vans

Section 4. Exclusions

The following types of brand new motor vehicles shall not be covered for issuance of motor vehicle special license plates:

a. Public Utility Vehicles
b. Cargo Trucks (private/for hire)
c. Service Vehicle (Hotel limousines, tourist vehicles, rent-a-car, ambulance and funeral hearse)
d Vintage Vehicle
e. Government Vehicle
f. Diplomatic/OEV
g. Used Imported/Surplus MV
h. More than four (4) wheel category

Section 5. Statistics on New Motor Vehicles for Registration

The yearly population of new motor vehicles for registration is approximately 130,000 to 150,000 vehicles. The additional numbering system herein set forth will augment the available alpha-numeric character combinations for these new units.

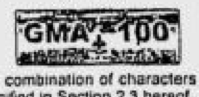
Section 6. Acquisition and Pricing Scheme

Under this program, the owner of the covered brand new motor vehicle may apply at any authorized LTO Regional/District Office or at the LTO Central Office for a pair of the 2004 Optional MV Special Plates for his unit under the following scheme:

6.1 Any triple alpha and non-triple alpha + two (2) numeric character combinations 01-09, shall cost **Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Php25,000.00)** inclusive of the handling charge by the authorized LTO courier.

Example:

AAA 01



ARL 08

LRM 99

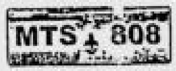
6.2 Any triple alpha and non-triple alpha + numeric character 100, shall cost **Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php15,000.00)** inclusive of the handling charge by the authorized LTO courier.

Example:

GMA 100

BBB 100

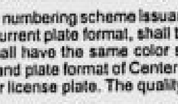
PAC 100



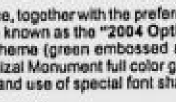
6.3 Any combination of characters such as triple-alpha, triple-numeric and other combination of characters as specified in Section 2.3 hereof, shall cost **Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php15,000.00)** inclusive of the handling charge by the authorized LTO courier.

Example:

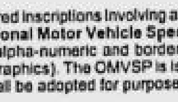
MCM 707



DML 168



MTS 808



6.4 In addition to the cost of the 2004 OMVSP, the motor vehicle owner shall pay to the LTO the applicable fees and charges for the registration of his unit.

Section 7. Specifications for the Proposed Numbering Scheme

The 01-100 numbering scheme issuance, together with the preferred inscriptions involving alpha and numeric characters under the current plate format, shall be known as the **"2004 Optional Motor Vehicle Special Plates" (OMVSP)."** The OMVSP shall have the same color scheme (green embossed alpha-numeric and border, green slogan, Matatag na Republika and plate format of Center Rizal Monument full color graphics). The OMVSP is issued in pair and considered as a regular license plate. The quality and use of special font shall be adopted for purposes of this program.

Section 8. Suppletory and Superseded Guidelines

All related existing rules and regulations are incorporated by reference as integral part hereof and those in conflict herewith are deemed modified or superseded accordingly.

Section 9. Effectivity Clause

This **Administrative Order** shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation and filing of three (3) copies thereof with the University of The Philippines Law Center.

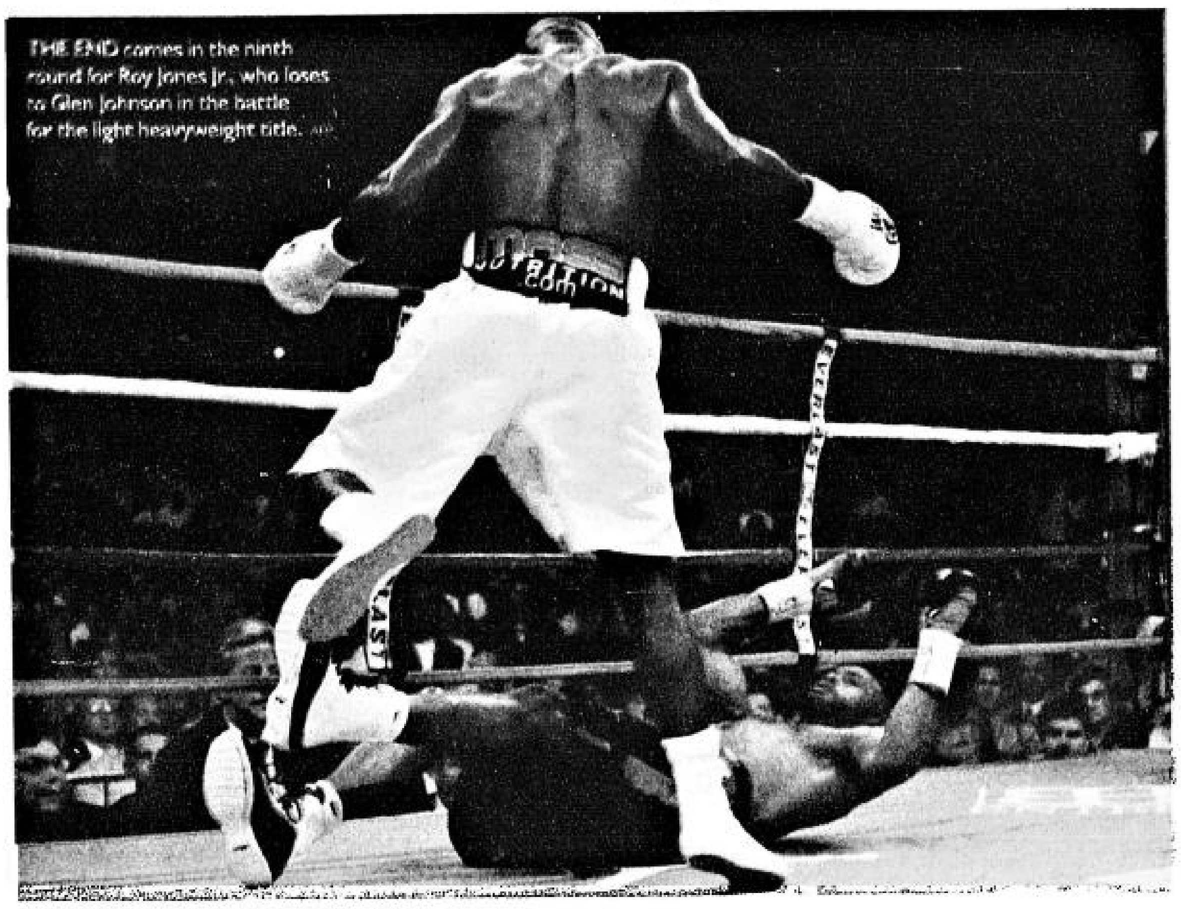
Issued in Quezon City this 3rd day of September in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Four.

ANNELI R. LONTOC
Assistant Secretary

Approved:

LEANDRO R. MENDOZA
Secretary
Department of Transportation & Communications (DOTC)
(PDI-Sept 27 & 28, 2004)

Jamaican Johnson flattens Jones



THE END comes in the ninth round for Roy Jones Jr., who loses to Glen Johnson in the battle for the light heavyweight title. AP

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Glen Johnson knocked out Roy Jones Jr. in the ninth round Saturday to retain his IBF light heavyweight title and cast more doubt on the future of one of boxing's most storied fighters.

Jones lay on his back, moving only slightly for almost four minutes after he was felled by an overhand right, followed by a short left. Trainers filled a towel with ice and slid it under Jones' head as he lay on the canvas, but he had trouble opening his eyes.

Jones, 35, finally walked out of the ring with help from his trainers. Jones left the arena in an ambulance and was taken to the Regional Medical Center at Memphis for a checkup. He walked to the ambulance without comment.

He got into the ambulance in a backstage hallway just a few yards.from Johnson's victory news conference.

"Listen, I'm not claiming I'm the best this or the best that. I'm the guy who is willing to fight the self-claimed best," Johnson said.

The defeat left Jones' once-impressive career in tatters.

Jones turned pro after the 1988 Olympics, where it was widely perceived he was robbed of the gold medal. He has won titles at classes ranging from middleweight to heavyweight—last March he won a piece of the heavyweight title by taking the WBA crown from John Ruiz.

Last November, he captured the light heavyweight crown from Antonio Tarver in the first of their two fights. But he was defeated by a crashing left from Tarver in their rematch in May.

JOHNSON AFP

Tarver joined Johnson at his news conference, saying he regarded Jones' career as over.

"I want to see the man go on and enjoy his life after boxing," Tarver said. "We don't need to see Roy Jones go through the things he went through tonight, the things he went through on May 15. Let the man ride off into the sunset."

Tarver said he was ready to fight Johnson for the IBF light heavyweight title, and Johnson was open to the idea.

Johnson, 41-9-2, with 28 knockouts, came out the aggressor from the opening bell Saturday night. He threw a total of 437 punches to 270 for Jones and kept the challenger against the ropes for most of the fight.

By the seventh round, the crowd was booing and calling for more action from Jones.

"I beat him at his own game," said Johnson, a native of Jamaica who makes his home in Miami. "A lot of guys try to fight Roy from the outside, but I wanted to stay in on him." *AP*

Ex-champ Bowe returns with KO

SHAWNEE, Oklahoma—Some in boxing were worried Riddick Bowe would get hurt making a comeback after eight years outside the ring. On Saturday, he was the one doing the hurting.

Bowe, clearly happy to be fighting again, knocked an outclassed Marcus Rhode down four times before the fight was finally stopped at 2:45 of the second round in a ring on a tribal reservation.

The former heavyweight champion was heavy and a step slow, but there was nothing wrong with the way he punched. He put Rhode down once with 10 seconds left in the first round and then knocked him down three times in the second round before Rhode's corner stepped in and the fight was stopped.

"It's good to be back," Bowe said. "I feel like a kid in a candy store."

Bowe showed no ill effects from getting hit again, although Rhode didn't hit him very much. In his last fight before retiring, Bowe showed signs of brain damage and there were worries that getting hit in the head could damage him more.

RIDDICK Bowe (left) lands a punch to Marcus Rhode. AP

"They said crazy things like I was punchy," Bowe said. "They're the ones who are punchy."

The first knockdown came on a right hand to the head, while the second came on a combination after Bowe stunned Rhode with an uppercut. The end came on a right, left, right that put Rhode down alongside the ropes. *AP*

US sweeps foes, reaches Davis final

LONDON—The United States swept past Belarus on Saturday to clinch their first Davis Cup final appearance since 1997.

Twins Bob and Mike Bryan defeated Belarus' Max Mirnyi and Vladimir Voltchkov to give the Americans an unassailable 3-0 lead in the semifinal tie in Charleston.

The Bryans, who are unbeaten in Davis Cup matches, won, 6-1, 6-3, 7-5, to finish off Belarus after world No. 2 Andy Roddick and Mardy Fish had won their singles matches on Friday.

The Americans will face 2000 champions Spain or France in the final, with Spain looking favorites after Tommy Robredo and Rafael Nadal claimed a tense doubles victory to give them a 2-1 lead going into Sunday's singles.

Trailing 1-0 after Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu had upset Carlos Moya on Friday, Spain finally made home advantage count by grabbing both points on Saturday.

Juan Carlos Ferrero completed a 6-3, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 win over an injured Fabrice Santoro in a match held over due to bad light before Robredo and Nadal edged past France's Arnaud Clement and Michael Llodra, 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Santoro finished the match with a painful wrist injury, leaving French captain Guy Forget to draft in Clement as a replacement in the doubles.

"I woke up this morning and could barely hold a racket, it was warm so I could play on. But you can't beat a great player like Juan Carlos when you're injured," said Santoro.

France's new-look doubles pairing had plenty of chances but the Spaniards prevailed in five error-strewn sets lasting three hours 47 minutes at Alicante's Plaza de Toros.

Australia preserved their World Group status when Wayne Arthurs and Todd Woodbridge recorded a 7-6, 7-6, 6-3, victory over Moroccans Mounir El Aarej and Mehdi Tahiri for an unbeatable 3-0 lead in their playoff tie.

Croatia and 2002 champions Russia also secured their places among the 16 nations who will battle it out for the Davis Cup next season after taking winning 3-0 leads.

Romania and Germany will carry 2-1 advantages into the final day of their ties, while Britain and Austria were locked at 1-1 after bad light forced an early halt to their doubles encounter.

In Moscow, a rejuvenated Marat Safin vowed to help Russia win back the Davis Cup next year after teaming up with Mikhail Youzhny for a 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 win over Thai twins Sanchai and Sonchat Ratiwatana.

Humbled by Belarus in the first round this year, Safin believes Russia can get back to the top.

"We have a new, young team, which is capable of doing great things in the near future," said the former US Open champion.

In Asuncion, Jiri Novak and Radek Stepanek gave the Czech Republic a winning 3-0 lead over Paraguay while Fernando Gonzalez and Nicolas Massu led Chile to an unbeatable 3-0 cushion over Japan in Santiago. *Reuters*

AFTER losses in Olympic basketball and the Ryder Cup, the United States flag is soars high as Andy Roddick and his teammates reach the Davis Cup final. REUTERS

Do-it-all Far Eastern forward voted MVP

From page A25

to the Mythical Five in awards ceremonies that came before FEU's sudden-death-forging Game 2 victory.

University of the East's Mark Arellano won the Rookie of the Year award while JC Intal of Ateneo took the Most Improved Player trophy.

But Santos was the biggest winner of them all. And his only regret was that his dad, Ernesto, wasn't around to witness his coronation night.

"*Sayang lang, wala siya para makita ang* achievements ko (It's a pity he's not here to see my achievement," rued Santos.

The elder Santos passed away due to heart failure three years ago, a tragedy that forced the do-it-all Tamaraw forward to the breadwinner's role.

And before taking on the job as FEU's main man, Santos picked up an assortment of jobs in his native Pampanga. He sold fruits, drove a pedicab and washed cars, just to help support his mother and three siblings.

"*Kaya nagpapasalamat din ako sa mga taong tumulong sa akin para makarating dito* (I also want to thank the people who helped me get this far)," said the 23-year-old cager, who made special mention of Mayor Dennis Pineda of Lubao, Pampanga.

Santos averaged 13.4 points and 10.3 rebounds this season en route to the MVP trophy, which will serve as one of the highlights of his résumé once he applies for the pro ranks next year.

Gracious in victory, Santos also had special words for Cardona.

"He's a good player. *Tuwing laro, binibigay niya talaga ang lahat. Wala akong ipagmamayabang sa kanya kasi alam ko,* deserving *din siya sa* MVP (Every game, he gives it his all. I know he deserves the MVP title, too," he said. *Jasmine W. Payo*

RP fighters stop Indons in WBF card

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

FILIPINO fighters showed they have a place in the World Boxing Foundation by winning their matches in Saturday night's WBF Showdown at the Flash Elorde Ballroom to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of the late Papa Sarreal, the acknowledged Grand Old Man of Philippine boxing.

The event, attended by WBF president Mick Croucher, members of the Elorde and Sarreal family, and ex-World Boxing Council champion Gerry Peñalosa, turned out to be explosive.

Negros-born Sukarno Banjao knocked out Indon Yongki Afrizal in the sixth round to win the vacant WBF flyweight title while Rey Pelonia captured the WBF welterweight crown by disposing of another Indonesian, Ferri Wirawan, in the second round.

Afrizal first went down in the second round following a left hook by Banjao, but managed to pile up points from there to keep the fight exciting.

But a Banjao right straight in the sixth found its mark, sending the Pino Bahari-trained boxer sprawled on the canvas for good.

Pelonia put away Wirawan at the 53-second mark of the second round with a right straight.

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In another all-Filipino clash, Benjie Sorolla of Marty Elorde Stable became the new WBF minimumweight champion with a seventh-round knockout of Rey Orais.

In the curtain-raiser, Rey Labao technically knocked out Leonard Dagdagen in the first round, while Marlo Villamor TKO'd Domingo Paraiso in the second round.

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FERRARI crew members wave flags to greet Rubens Barrichello as he rolls to a stop past the finish line. AFP

Rubens pockets second consecutive F1 triumph

SHANGHAI—Rubens Barrichello celebrated his second victory in a row Sunday, winning the inaugural Chinese Grand Prix as Ferrari teammate Michael Schumacher languished in 12th after starting from the pit.

The Brazilian followed up his win in Italy two weeks ago by holding off the challenge of Jenson Button in the BAR-Honda, finishing comfortably ahead of the Briton in front of 150,000 fans at the Shanghai International Circuit.

Formula One fever has gripped China's glitziest city and it was a close and competitive race to introduce the sport to a country with no tradition of motor racing.

While Barrichello took the honors, all eyes were on Schumacher who was forced to begin the race from the pit when Ferrari replaced his engine after the German ace spun in qualifying Saturday.

He came out of the blocks flying and clawed his way up to ninth but his aggressive driving saw him lose control again, his car spinning on lap 13 as he went in search of a 13th win of the season.

The world champion was posting fastest lap times but even he was not able to make it to the points starting from such a disadvantage.

He has now gone three races without a win since last tasting victory in Hungary.

Overcast skies and temperatures in the mid-20s provided perfect driving conditions, but it was a frustrating day for the whole Schumacher clan.

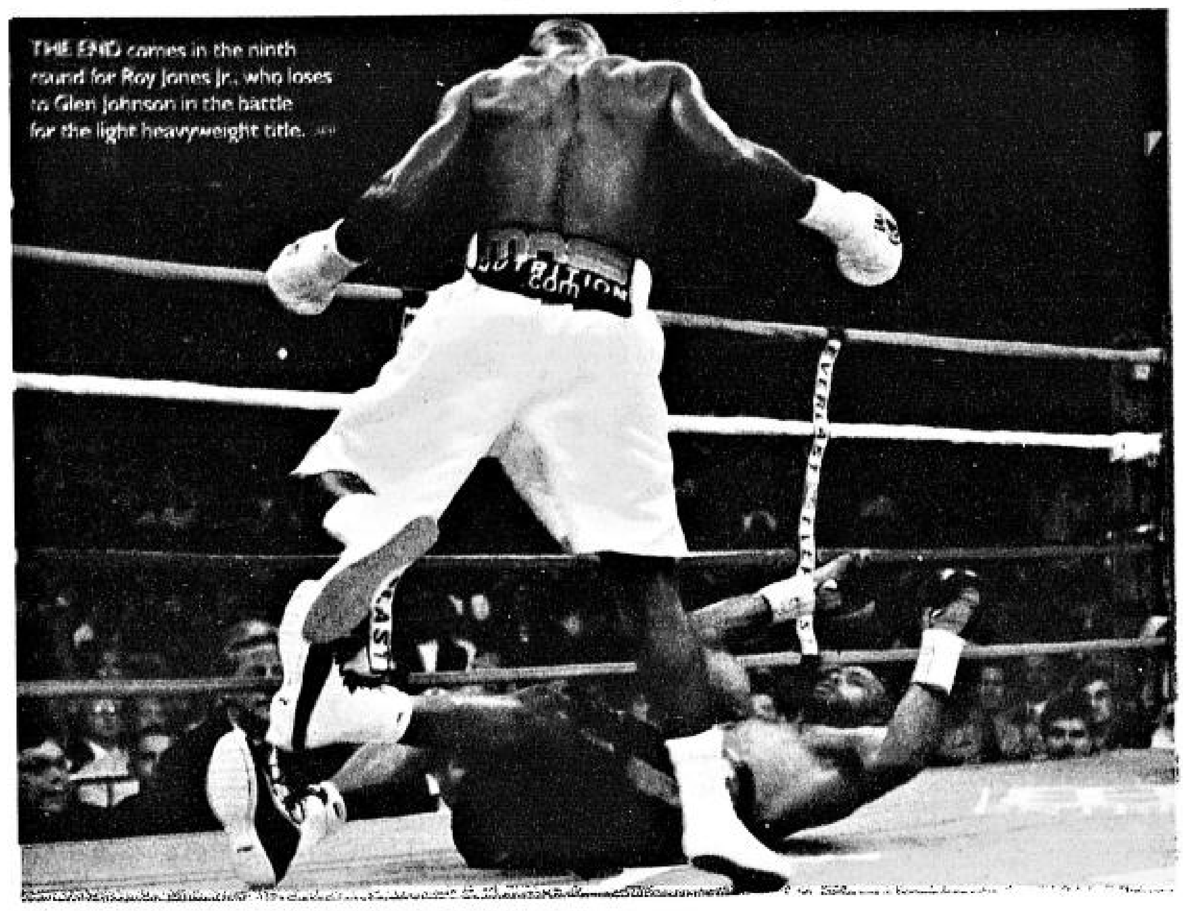
Brother Ralf was forced to retire after a collision with David Coulthard's McLaren.

Ralf looked far from happy as he climbed from his Williams after steering it back to the pits and organizers said the incident would be investigated.

His retirement opened the door to Spain's Fernando Alonso in the Renault who held on to finish fourth.

Kimi Raikkonen in a McLaren was third while Williams driver Juan Pablo Montoya was fifth and Button's BAR teammate, Takuma Sato, sixth. *AFP*

Jamaican Johnson flattens Jones



THE END comes in the ninth round for Roy Jones Jr., who loses to Glen Johnson in the battle for the light heavyweight title. AP

MEMPHIS, Tennessee—Glen Johnson knocked out Roy Jones Jr. in the ninth round Saturday to retain his IBF light heavyweight title and cast more doubt on the future of one of boxing's most storied fighters.

Jones lay on his back, moving only slightly for almost four minutes after he was felled by an overhand right, followed by a short left. Trainers filled a towel with ice and slid it under Jones' head as he lay on the canvas, but he had trouble opening his eyes.

Jones, 35, finally walked out of the ring with help from his trainers. Jones left the arena in an ambulance and was taken to the Regional Medical Center at Memphis for a checkup. He walked to the ambulance without comment.

He got into the ambulance in a backstage hallway just a few yards from Johnson's victory news conference.

"Listen, I'm not claiming I'm the best this or the best that. I'm the guy who is willing to fight the self-claimed best," Johnson said.

The defeat left Jones' once-impressive career in tatters.

Jones turned pro after the 1988 Olympics, where it was widely perceived he was robbed of the gold medal. He has won titles at classes ranging from middleweight to heavyweight—last March he won a piece of the heavyweight title by taking the WBA crown from John Ruiz.

Last November, he captured the light heavyweight crown from Antonio Tarver in the first of their two fights. But he was defeated by a crashing left from Tarver in their rematch in May.

JOHNSON AFP

Tarver joined Johnson at his news conference, saying he regarded Jones' career as over.

"I want to see the man go on and enjoy his life after boxing," Tarver said. "We don't need to see Roy Jones go through the things he went through tonight, the things he went through on May 15. Let the man ride off into the sunset."

Tarver said he was ready to fight Johnson for the IBF light heavyweight title, and Johnson was open to the idea.

Johnson, 41-9-2, with 28 knockouts, came out the aggressor from the opening bell Saturday night. He threw a total of 437 punches to 270 for Jones and kept the challenger against the ropes for most of the fight.

By the seventh round, the crowd was booing and calling for more action from Jones.

"I beat him at his own game," said Johnson, a native of Jamaica who makes his home in Miami. "A lot of guys try to fight Roy from the outside, but I wanted to stay in on him." *AP*

Ex-champ Bowe returns with KO

SHAWNEE, Oklahoma—Some in boxing were worried Riddick Bowe would get hurt making a comeback after eight years outside the ring. On Saturday, he was the one doing the hurting.

Bowe, clearly happy to be fighting again, knocked an outclassed Marcus Rhode down four times before the fight was finally stopped at 2:45 of the second round in a ring on a tribal reservation.

The former heavyweight champion was heavy and a step slow, but there was nothing wrong with the way he punched. He put Rhode down once with 10 seconds left in the first round and then knocked him down three times in the second round before Rhode's corner stepped in and the fight was stopped.

"It's good to be back," Bowe said. "I feel like a kid in a candy store."

Bowe showed no ill effects from getting hit again, although Rhode didn't hit him very much. In his last fight before retiring, Bowe showed signs of brain damage and there were worries that getting hit in the head could damage him more.

RIDDICK Bowe (left) lands a punch to Marcus Rhode. AP

"They said crazy things like I was punchy," Bowe said. "They're the ones who are punchy."

The first knockdown came on a right hand to the head, while the second came on a combination after Bowe stunned Rhode with an uppercut. The end came on a right, left, right that put Rhode down alongside the ropes. *AP*

US sweeps foes, reaches Davis final

LONDON—The United States swept past Belarus on Saturday to clinch their first Davis Cup final appearance since 1997.

Twins Bob and Mike Bryan defeated Belarus' Max Mirnyi and Vladimir Voltchkov to give the Americans an unassailable 3-0 lead in the semifinal tie in Charleston.

The Bryans, who are unbeaten in Davis Cup matches, won, 6-1, 6-3, 7-5, to finish off Belarus after world No. 2 Andy Roddick and Mardy Fish had won their singles matches on Friday.

The Americans will face 2000 champions Spain or France in the final, with Spain looking favorites after Tommy Robredo and Rafael Nadal claimed a tense doubles victory to give them a 2-1 lead going into Sunday's singles.

Trailing 1-0 after Frenchman Paul-Henri Mathieu had upset Carlos Moya on Friday, Spain finally made home advantage count by grabbing both points on Saturday.

Juan Carlos Ferrero completed a 6-3, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3 win over an injured Fabrice Santoro in a match held over due to bad light before Robredo and Nadal edged past France's Arnaud Clement and Michael Llodra, 7-6, 4-6, 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Santoro finished the match with a painful wrist injury, leaving French captain Guy Forget to draft in Clement as a replacement in the doubles.

"I woke up this morning and could barely hold a racket, it was warm so I could play on. But you can't beat a great player like Juan Carlos when you're injured," said Santoro.

France's new-look doubles pairing had plenty of chances but the Spaniards prevailed in five error-strewn sets lasting three hours 47 minutes at Alicante's Plaza de Toros.

Australia preserved their World Group status when Wayne Arthurs and Todd Woodbridge recorded a 7-6, 7-6, 6-3, victory over Moroccans Mounir El Aarej and Mehdi Tahiri for an unbeatable 3-0 lead in their playoff tie.

Croatia and 2002 champions Russia also secured their places among the 16 nations who will battle it out for the Davis Cup next season after taking winning 3-0 leads.

Romania and Germany will carry 2-1 advantages into the final day of their ties, while Britain and Austria were locked at 1-1 after bad light forced an early halt to their doubles encounter.

In Moscow, a rejuvenated Marat Safin vowed to help Russia win back the Davis Cup next year after teaming up with Mikhail Youzhny for a 6-2, 6-1, 6-4 win over Thai twins Sanchai and Sonchat Ratiwatana.

Humbled by Belarus in the first round this year, Safin believes Russia can get back to the top.

"We have a new, young team, which is capable of doing great things in the near future," said the former US Open champion.

In Asuncion, Jiri Novak and Radek Stepanek gave the Czech Republic a winning 3-0 lead over Paraguay while Fernando Gonzalez and Nicolas Massu led Chile to an unbeatable 3-0 cushion over Japan in Santiago. *Reuters*

AFTER losses in Olympic basketball and the Ryder Cup, the United States flag is soars high as Andy Roddick and his teammates reach the Davis Cup final. REUTERS

Do-it-all Far Eastern forward voted MVP

From page A25

to the Mythical Five in awards ceremonies that came before FEU's sudden-death-forging Game 2 victory.

University of the East's Mark Arellano won the Rookie of the Year award while JC Intal of Ateneo took the Most Improved Player trophy.

But Santos was the biggest winner of them all. And his only regret was that his dad, Ernesto, wasn't around to witness his coronation night.

"*Sayang lang, wala siya para makita ang* achievements ko (It's a pity he's not here to see my achievement," rued Santos.

The elder Santos passed away due to heart failure three years ago, a tragedy that forced the do-it-all Tamaraw forward to the breadwinner's role.

And before taking on the job as FEU's main man, Santos picked up an assortment of jobs in his native Pampanga. He sold fruits, drove a pedicab and washed cars, just to help support his mother and three siblings.

"*Kaya nagpapasalamat din ako sa mga taong tumulong sa akin para makarating dito* (I also want to thank the people who helped me get this far)," said the 23-year-old cager, who made special mention of Mayor Dennis Pineda of Lubao, Pampanga.

Santos averaged 13.4 points and 10.3 rebounds this season en route to the MVP trophy, which will serve as one of the highlights of his résumé once he applies for the pro ranks next year.

Gracious in victory, Santos also had special words for Cardona.

"He's a good player. *Tuwing laro, binibigay niya talaga ang lahat. Wala akong ipagmamayabang sa kanya kasi alam ko,* deserving *din siya sa* MVP (Every game, he gives it his all. I know he deserves the MVP title, too," he said. *Jasmine W. Payo*

RP fighters stop Indons in WBF card

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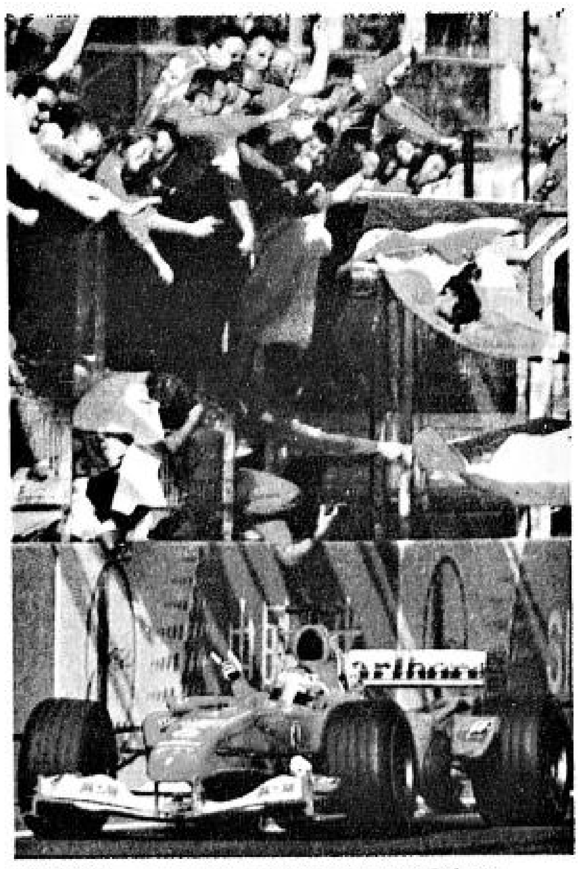

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Kimi Raikkonen in a McLaren was third while Williams driver Juan Pablo Montoya was fifth and Button's BAR teammate, Takuma Sato, sixth. *AFP*

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Truck & car show lines up seminars

THE CALTEX Delo Sport Truck and Custom Car Show unfolds on Sept. 29 at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall B in Mandaluyong City with free motor racing seminars scheduled during the five-day event.

The Landcruiser Club of the Philippines will host a seminar on the Fundamentals of 4x4 Off-Roading on Sept. 29, followed by the workshop on How to Start Drag Racing hosted by the Philippine Drag Racing Family Sport on Sept. 30. On Oct. 1, Sports Values Inc. will hold its Basic Circuit Racing, to be followed by the Manila Off Roaders Club's Basics on 4x4 Racing. The next day, Race Motorsports Club will hold the Slalom Racing Technique seminar to be followed by the Custom Car Technology hosted by Minoru Goku of the Nihon Automobile College. The last seminar will be on the Basics on 4x4 Racing by the Manila Off Roaders Club. The seminars will be held in the afternoon.

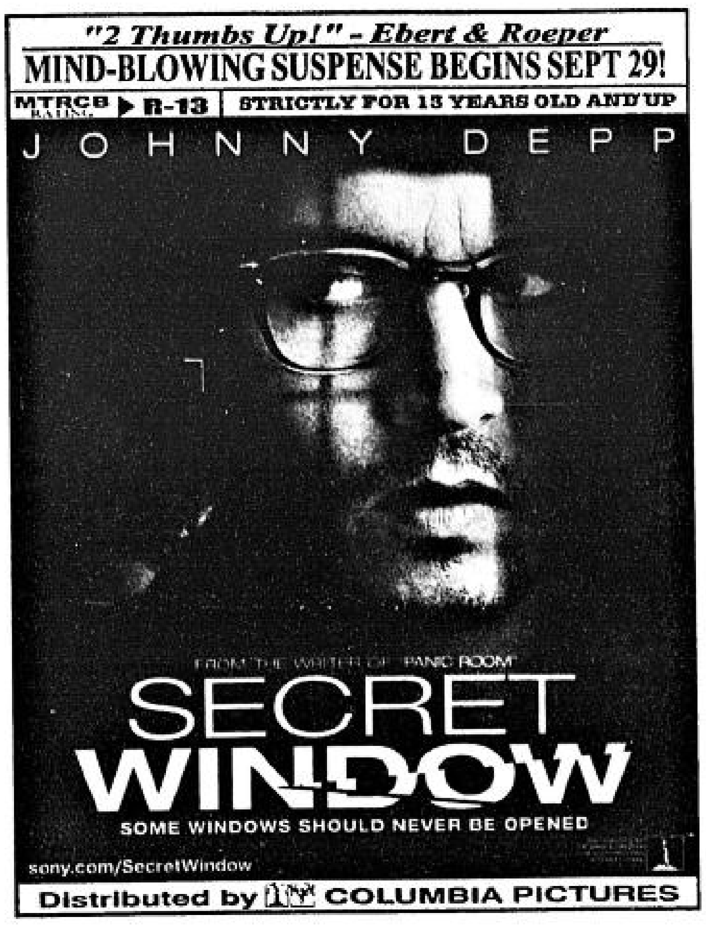
The show is presented by Caltex Delo with Ambi Pur as gold sponsor and Top Gear Magazine as major sponsor. Minor sponsors include the Philippine Daily Inquirer, EXO Armoring, Sunrise Holidays Concepts, Motorcycle Philippines, Manila Bulletin and Business World. For inquiries, call 6718381 or 6718382.

LGBA 2nd round today at Big Dome

THE SECOND-ROUND eliminations of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association Inc. (LGBA) 7-Stag Derby blasts off at the Araneta Coliseum at 2 p.m. today with 94 fights on tap. Early frontrunners who scored three wins at Roligon last Saturday were Mike Buendia, LGBA president Boy Diaz-Bong Aspe and Butch Littaua, Romy Tan, Tony Galang, Boots Ya, Ding Jose and Vice Gov. Oscar Lambino. The 4-stag championship round is scheduled on Wednesday also at the Big Dome. Derby sponsors are Asvet Inc., Thunderbird, Robichem Laboratories, Excellence Gamefowl Specialists, Lakpue Drug Inc. and Vitarich Corp. Among today's favorites are the entries of Raymond Velayo and Biboy Enriquez of Rizal, Mayor Cito Alberto of Catanduanes, Bong Aspe and Alex Tan of Bicol, former Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco of Tarlac, Raffy Campos, Edwin Aranez, Dax Ganzon, Francis Lumunsad and Quito Reyes of Batangas, Justice Magdangal Elma of Quezon, Boy Marzo, Mayor Edwin Ramos, Blandy Tolentino and Luis Zerrudo of Laguna, Mike Romulo of Cavite and Tony Boy Tabora of Baguio. For inquiries, call 9267808, 9245072, 9245051 (loc. 128) or 0920-5851940.

Thunderbird, Univet back local derbies

THUNDERBIRD Power Feeds and Univet continue to back regional and provincial breeders' organizations across the country by supporting local derbies. Last Saturday, Thunderbird Enertone sponsored the stag derby of the Zamboanga del Norte Gamefowl Breeders Association (ZNGBA) at the Dipolog Coliseum in Dipolog City. On Oct. 9, Thunderbird Platinum will sponsor the Bataan Gamefowl Breeders Association's 4-Stag Derby at the New Tarlac Coliseum in San Sebastian, Tarlac, Tarlac. Thunderbird Multi-Grain Concentrate has also pledged full backing for the 6-stag derby on Oct. 23 of the newly formed Gamefowl Breeders Association of Pangasinan at the Lingayen Sports Complex. On the same date, the Bicol Gamefowl Breeders Association will begin its Thunderbird Bexan XP-sponsored 5-Stag Derby over three Saturdays. The first 2-stag elimination round will be held at the Gallera de Legazpi in Legazpi City. The rest of the participants collide on Oct. 30, after which the 3-stag finals takes center stage on Nov. 6, also at the same venue.



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SPORTS

Iloilo cagers top Oro Stars, gain NBC playoffs

ILOILO CITY—The Iloilo Warriors held off the Cagayan de Oro Stars, 90-86, Saturday to advance to the next stage of the NBC (National Basketball Conference) South division playoffs at the University of San Agustin gym here.

Main man Carlos Sayon fired 23 points to help the Warriors earn a shot at the South division's No. 2 team, Ozamiz Cotta, in the tournament sponsored by Panasonic, Spring Cooking Oil, PCSO, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Cebu Ferries, Air Philippines, Supercat, Skygo Motorcycles, Accel and Molten.

Coach Andy Calingin's Stars had a chance to extend the game when Ismael Culdora was awarded two freethrows with seven seconds left and the count at 88-86. But Culdora muffed both charities.

Rhagnee Sinco then struck before the buzzer sounded to finalize the count.

The Warriors will face Ozamiz on Oct. 8 at the USA gym here at the start of their best-of-three series. The winner will challenge Tribu Sugbu in the division finals.

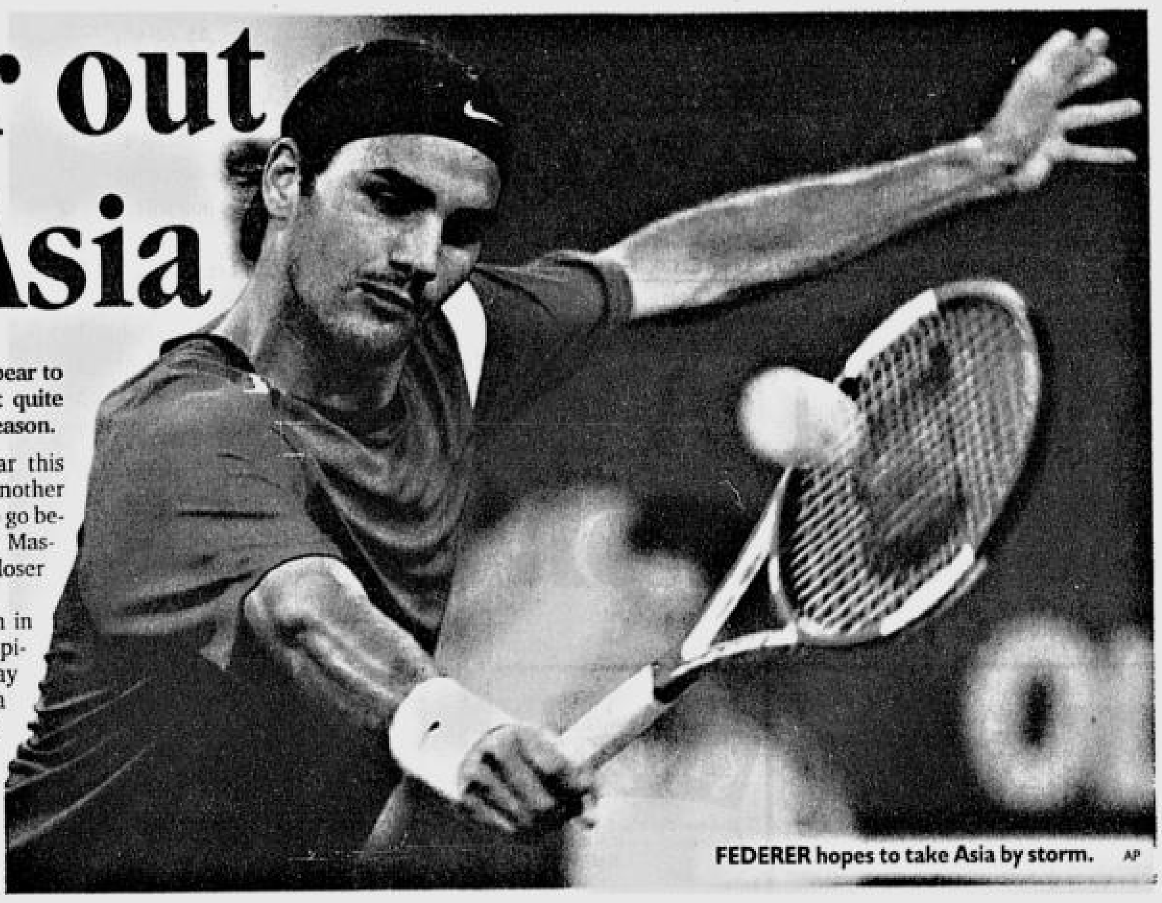
The scores:

ILOILO 90—Sayon 23, Allado 15, Sanz 13, Marucot 11, Leonida 10, Sincq 6, Poral 4, Sencil 3, Senerez 3, Sina-on 2

CDO 86—Navales 21, Alcantara 13, Alfeche 13, Culdora 13, Numeran 13, Capati 10, Tolentino 4, Sese 1.

Quarters: 26-21, 46-36, 70-65, 90-86.

Federer out to test Asia


FEDERER hopes to take Asia by storm. AP

BANGKOK—World No. 1 Roger Federer may appear to have it all right now in tennis—but that's not quite enough for the gold-standard champion of this season.

"I have goals left for 2004," the 23-year-old Swiss said Sunday during a presentation for Monday's start of the $550,000 Thailand Open.

"This is my first (ATP) event in Asia and now that I'm out here, it puts pressure on me to do well," said Federer, who has won three of the four Grand Slams titles for this season.

"I don't have so many chances to show myself in Asia," added the holder of nine trophies so far this season with another handful of events to go before the eight-man Masters Cup season closer in mid-November.

Federer has been in the bustling Thai capital since Thursday evening following a whirlwind media day in Hong Kong.

He will be putting an impressive 64-6 record on the line beginning Tuesday. *AFP*

Top Baguio runners prevail in Milo elims

BAGUIO CITY—There was little surprise as the favorites dominated the last regional elimination leg of the 28th National Milo Marathon yesterday at the Burnham Park here.

Rene Herrera pulled away from fellow RP Team member Alley Quisay with one kilometer left in the 21K race to capture the men's crown, while Marychiel Minas met little resistance in claiming her third straight regional title.

"I did not push myself because I have to run in India next week," said Herrera in Filipino. He will compete in the World Half Marathon in New Delhi on Sunday.

Herrera, the 3,000-meter steeplechase gold medalist in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games, clocked one hour, 21 minutes and 29 seconds.

Quisay, the reigning adidas King of the Road, crossed the finish line 37 second later. Marson Tarcelo placed third in 1:24:20.

The 21-year-old Minas completed the 21K course in one hour, 43 minutes and 36 seconds. She was followed home by Librada Tamson (1:47:59) and Michelle Anne Tibagac (1:49:46).

The top three finishers in the men's and women's races qualified to the National Finals in November to be held in partnership with Globe Handyphone, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Bayview Park Hotel and the Department of Tourism.

Minas finished sixth in the National Finals last year.

"I've been training religiously that's why I'm in shape," said Minas, a student of Benguet State University taking up Education.

Herrera and Minas pocketed the P10,000 top purse, a trophy and a Globe Handyphone each.

Not counting the National Finals slated on Nov. 14 in Metro Manila, the biggest and longest-running nationwide foot race in the country already has attracted 97,000 participants, including yesterday's 4,588 runners.

Last year, 86,200 runners participated in the 13 regional legs and the National Finals.

In the 5K fun run, Rommel Julius Ragudo edged Pudes Alunes to capture the men's title even as Jennifer Pekkeng outkicked Ronnie Jean Sofla to take the women's crown.

Laylo lies low, draws match

Standings after round 12: Men—8.5 pts—NM Laylo; 8.0—IM Garma, NM Barbosa, NM Senador; 7.5—IM Gonzales; 7.0—FM Donguines; 6.0—NM Nolte, IM Roca, IM Nadera; 5.5—IM Dableo; 5.0—So; 4.5—FM Sales, NM Carlos, NM Diaz; 3.0—NM Maga; 2.0—Fazon, NM Perez 2.0.

TAGAYTAY CITY—National Master Darwin Laylo agreed to a quick 15-move draw with Fide Master Fernie Donguines in the 12th round Saturday night to keep the pace in the National Chess Championships at the Tagaytay International Convention Center here.

Laylo, the former national junior champion, halved the point with Donguines to push his total to 8.5 points.

Top qualifier NM Oliver Barbosa took the scalp of NM Mirabeau Maga after 63 moves of a Sicilian game to post his fifth victory in his last six games and boost his tally to 8.0.

The top three finishers in the event will join GMs Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Mark Paragua in the men's team bound for this year's World Chess Olympiad in Majorca, Spain. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Samsung golf 5th stop at Malarayat

REIGNING Philippine amateur champion Jun Bernis hopes to add a Samsung Amateur Tour leg victory to his memorable season when he leads the cast for the fifth elimination stop starting today at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City.

Bernis, also the winner of the DHL Open, will be up against familiar rivals in the 72-hole showdown that rewards the winner a slot in the national grand finals of the series sponsored by Samsung Electronics Philippines next year.

Although he will not have to worry about national teammate Juvic Pagunsan, who had already qualified by winning the Pueblo de Oro leg, Bernis is out for a tough test against Dave Hernandez, Ronnie Torrecampo and Putra Cupper Boyet Zaragosa.

Malarayat club champion Abe Avena, Jong Laput and Jojo Guingona are the dark horses in the 72-hole battle.

The championship division battle is the centerpiece event of the tournament also backed by Tokyo Tokyo, Gatorade, Philippine Airlines, adidas Taylor Made, KZG by Custom Clubmakers, Pink Patio Boracay, Coppertone Sport, and Rogin-E. Media partners are Killer-Bee, Jam 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT and 103.5 K-Lite.

For inquiries, call the PSMG at 6350010.

Summit Point joins Sta. Lucia Tour

STARTING out with just four clubs and a little over a hundred players, the Sta. Lucia Tour enters its fifth season next week with the field growing to seven squads boasting a record 288 players.

The addition of the Summit Golf and Country Club in Lipa City increases the team roster originally made up of Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club, Orchard Golf and Country Club, Alta Vista Golf and Country Club, Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club, Royale Tagaytay and last year's debutante Lake Caliraya Springs Golf and Country Club.

All the clubs belong to the Sta. Lucia Realty family of courses.

The tour's executive committee co-chaired by Vicente Santos and enginner Winfred Gob recently introduced a schedule concept which splits the participating field into two batches of 144 players each for the two southern legs.

The tour, which has lured Globe Platinum as major sponsor, starts on Sept. 30 with Batch A playing at Rancho Palos Verdes in Davao. Batch B follows on Oct. 14-16. Alta Vista of Cebu hosts the second leg with Batch A playing on Nov. 4-6 and Batch B on Nov. 18-20. When the tour moves to Luzon for the final leg, Summit Point will be the venue on Dec. 2 before Eagle Ridge and Orchard host the last two rounds on Dec. 3-4, respectively.

JUVENILE RACES

Esguerra gallopers pull off big sweep

By Edwin Villanueva, contributor

HERMIE Esguerra's horses turned the San Lazaro Leisure Park into their private playground anew by dominating the second leg of the 2004 Juvenile Championships yesterday.

Eye Candy upstaged her more illustrious stablemates in ruling the Juvenile Fillies before Real Spicy closed another whale of a show by the powerhouse stable with an overpowering triumph in the Juvenile Colts.

Unleashing a blistering rally in the stretch, Eye Candy won by two lengths over Ocean Deep, with the fancied One Vision and Lamborghini claiming the next two spots and notching a first-ever 1-2-3-4 finish by a horseowner in local racing history.

And to complete the day for the Plaridel, Bulacan sportsman-businessman, Real Spicy routed his rivals, scoring a 10-length victory to bounce back from his defeat in the opening leg.

"Teamwork and perseverance paid off. I'd like to salute my trainers and stable staff. These victories are for the racing fans," said Esguerra, who netted a total of P1 million in the Fillies and another P600,000 in the Colts.

Eye Candy, a two-year-old bay filly by Mr. Sutter out of Rare Rusty Rose, is trained by Justino "Nick" Atienza and assisted by Lito Tornandizo, while Real Spicy, by 1998 US Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale, is conditioned by former Philracom head Andrew Sanchez.

The Fillies turned out to be the day's most exciting race as Eye Candy ran down the fancied first leg winner Lamborghini and One Vision in mid-stretch before Ocean Deep rallied to steal second spot.

"*Ang lakas ng remate kaya alam ko amin na* (She rallied so hard that's why I knew we had it)," said Eye Candy's rider Jesse Guce, the son of former premier jockey Jesus, after nailing down his first major stakes win.

In the Colts, Pat Dilema lost no time sending Real Spicy out front, and the chestnut charger simply galloped with gusto to clock a course record 1:32 (18-23.5-24.5-26) over 1,500 meters. Eye Candy negotiated the same distance in 1:34.5 (17-24.5-25.28).

Yesterday's show of force was a fitting followup to what Esguerra's horses accomplished last Sept. 12 when Real Slew, Real Tough and One Vision swept the three featured races at the SLLP.

Esguerra received two winners' and one breeder's trophies (on Eye Candy) from Philracom chair Jimmy Dilag, MJCI president Alfonso Reyno Jr. and MJCI VP for corporate affairs Henri Kahn.

Paragua bounces back with big win

GRANDMASTER-ELECT Mark Paragua made amends for his first round defeat by beating six-time Turkmenistan champion International Master Orazly Annageldyev in the third round Saturday of the third and final leg of the Alushta Tournament in Crimea, Ukraine.

The Filipino outmaneuvered Annageldyev with the black pieces after 41 moves of a Sicilian Defense to push his total to 1.5 points.

Ukrainian GM Alexander Moroz, who outplayed Paragua in the first round, drew with compatriot GM Gennadi Kuzmin to stay on top with 2.5 points. *Marlon Bernardino*

Why pro boxing is losing its luster

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

BOXING used to be a sport I loved. But now, I felt that it has become a farce. On moral and medical grounds, I have virtually walked off from it in recent years mainly because I have to follow my conscience. Still, I must admit that boxing gave me the good fortune of rubbing elbows with some of its luminaries.

I learned the ropes of the sport from my father-in-law, Tirso del Rosario, a boxing legend who drew the fight fans by the thousands when he reigned as Philippine and Oriental featherweight champion in the mid-1940s. A foreign service student at the Far Eastern University, Tirso started as an amateur boxer under the expert coaching of the great Celestino "Aling" Enriquez.

Fighting in the bantamweight division, Tirso reigned supreme in 1945-1946, losing only once (on points) in 10 fights, while winning the rest, all by knockout.

He was also the first college boy to ever earn a shot at a world championship when he fought Mexican champion Manuel Ortiz for the bantamweight title at the jam-packed Rizal Stadium on Dec. 20, 1947. A 3-1 smart money favorite, Ortiz won a bloody 15-round unanimous decision over the brave Filipino challenger, who offered no excuses after the fight.

Much later, Tirso was named "Boxer of the Year" by the prestigious Philippine Sportswriters Association during the first PSA Awards Night on April 15, 1950 at the Crystal Room of the Old Avenue Hotel.

I also learned a lot from my longtime association with former World Boxing Council president Justiniano Montano Jr., whom I accompanied during his successful campaign in the boxing capitals of the world for the WBC presidency, the venerable Lope "Papa" Sarreal, who treated me like a son, and much respected sportscaster, Joe Cantada, who gave me my share of TV exposure and my mentor and idol, the fabled Willie Hernandez.

But so much for that.

Now comes, the recent report of a gross mismatch in Mandaue City where former World Boxing Council super flyweight champion Gerry peñalosa won his comeback fight by stopping Thai Samingkao Chutipol of Thailand in the second round after the Thai boxer hit the canvas even without receiving a punch.

The way the fight ended was criminal in nature because it robbed the public blind. Needless to say, the much-ballyhooed promotion was a disgrace, an unholy partnership among the promoters, the phoney boxer, the referee, the media people who helped created the hype and the Games and Amusements Board which approved the card. No wonder boxing is in the doldrums.

For myself, I have already stated my position. On moral grounds, I have sort of walked away from boxing in the wake of sordid events that have beset the sport—greedy promoters, flagrant mismatches, favoritism, reported kickbacks, falsified records, (frequently resorted to by boxers going abroad, especially Japan), rigged ratings, rumors of corruption.

On medical grounds, I have already written several times about the dangers inherent in the sport, its abuses that could leave the boxers permanently brain-damaged, the growing opposition of the medical community and the hue and cry to ban boxing around the world, making special mention of the fact that Sweden and Norway have already abolished boxing.

The best weapon of the ban-boxing movement is none other than heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali. Once considered as "The Greatest Athlete of All Time." Ali is a pathetic sight nowadays as a victim of Parkinson's syndrome.

"I was struck that this man (Ali), who previously was known for his glibness, was almost unintelligible," once said Dr. Nelson Richards, president of the American Academy of Neurology. "I changed my mind. Boxing should be banned."

However, a ban on boxing is unlikely in our contemporary society even if the brain injury and the death toll continue to mount. And although too many people have been clamoring for boxing reforms, I am disappointed that there has been no significant progress thus far.

For starters, the GAB, now headed by officer in charge Emmanuel Palabrica, should weed out and punish the guilty parties of that scandalous Mandaue fight card, including a certain Aljoe Jaro, the reported matchmaker who recruited the Thai patsy. This time, the GAB should not treat the guilty ones lightly by merely putting on kid gloves and slapping their wrists.

***

REACTION. Here's Olympic purist and former POC president Julian Malonso on my most recent piece titled "Off-track station at RMSC."

"In Greece, the athletic facility is a sacred place. It is treated like a temple. Installing a gambling station at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex is a sacrilege and condemnable. It's a reflection on the morality of Philippine sports."

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The Lions are loose in Manila!
See pages F2&F3 for details

Melanie: I'm a public figure, I'll ask for a public hearing

By Marinel R. Cruz

MELANIE AND MANUELITO (in file photo). "This will not get my son the financial support that he needs," says the mom.

"I WILL attend the hearing," declared actress-model Melanie Marquez. "I will also request for a public hearing because I'm a public figure."

Melanie was referring to the libel charges filed against her by Marissa Lapid, wife of Sen. Lito Lapid who is the father of Melanie's son, Manuelito.

Marissa sued Melanie for the "wounding" statements the latter made about her on the show biz talk show "Star Talk" on GMA 7.

But Melanie said the case should have been filed on "neutral ground" to keep the Lapids from "abusing their power."

Marissa filed the case before the San Fernando Regional Trial Court in Pampanga last Sept. 12. She also charged "Star Talk" with libel.

Melanie said Marissa should have filed the case in Quezon City, where the Lapids have a house, and not in Pampanga where their son, Mark, is the governor. The elder Lapid had also served as Pampanga governor for three terms before running for senator in last May's elections.

"These people would have to pay the price for my going there," Melanie said. "This is a waste of my time because this will only keep me from my work. I'm not just an *artista*, I'm also a businesswoman and I do a lot of charity work."

The libel suit was prompted by the statements Melanie made in an interview on "Star Talk," according to Alex Marcelino, a member of the senator's staff.

According to Marcelino, the hearing of the libel case will begin on Oct. 4.

"Are they planning to abuse their power?" Melanie said, referring to the Lapids. "They must remember that I'm also a *Kapampangan* (Pampanga native). I come from Mabalacat. *Mayroon din namang nagmamahal sa akin doon.*"

But Gov. Mark Lapid, speaking from Pampanga, said, "She should first check what the law says about this. We can file the case in Mindanao if we want. We live in Pampanga and we watched her interview here. It's only logical that we file the case here."

Melanie had made a public appeal on "Star Talk" for Senator Lapid to help finance the education of their son, Manuelito, 22. She said Manuelito, who is now in the US, wants to study medicine.

During the interview, Melanie said Marissa had told Manuelito, when he visited his father in Pampanga, to "pack your bags and get out of the house."

"Why would I be afraid of her?" said Melanie. "I was simply telling the truth."

According to her, Manuelito is now studying to become an X-ray technician. He also works as a medical assistant from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to support himself.

Melanie, who arrived from a four-day trip to Hong Kong last Thursday, said she was waiting for a subpoena.

"File whatever you want," she said, referring to the Lapids again. "This is merely a delaying tactic. This will not get my son the financial support that he needs."

Out of the Closet: Karylle /A40

Angela Bofill comes 'home'

MERK'S CHOICE. Angela Bofill

WHEN pop and jazz diva Angela Bofill hits the high notes in her live shows at Merk's tonight and tomorrow night, it will also be in celebration of the second anniversary of the bar bistro, the new home of Pinoy artists.

Bofill was in fact the first choice of Richard Merk and wife Roni to perform at the opening of the bar bistro two years ago. The Merks had spotted Bofill in a Cleveland joint when they were planning to put up a place that would have good food and good entertainment.

Bofill, however, couldn't get away from a hectic schedule. She was then doing a gospel play, shooting a film about African-American cops in the '40s, and preparing for another play.

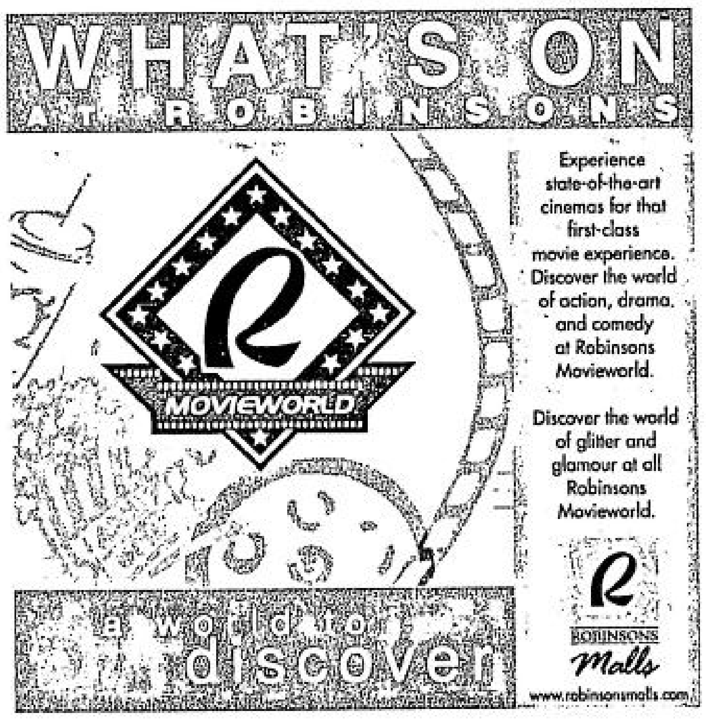
But Bofill became free and available in time for Merk's second anniversary.

"We offer not only jazz and Latin rhythms, we also have standards, folk songs, old favorites from Elvis Presley to the Beatles, and every now and then we have a classical concert," says Richard. "But Angela Bofill will be the first universal pop and jazz diva to grace Merk's."

When she performs tonight and tomorrow, Bofill will find in the audience lovers of all ages waiting for her to sing her hits, including "This Time I'll Be Sweeter," "Let Me Be the One," "Under the Moon and Over the Sky," "Tell Me Tomorrow" and "Tonight I Gave In."

Bofill will also be doing a special number with Richard Merk—her smash hit "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing." Other Pinoy bands will also be in the show, including musical director Lorrie Ilustre's own group, the Forte Band led by composer, veteran record producer and retro aficionado Chito Ilagan on bass, with keyboardist Joel Rasco, drummer Gary Lahoy, guest session guitarist Ketel Mata, and singers Mike Yonting, formerly of Q&A Band, and famous sibling singers Leny and Pat

ANGELA/ A37



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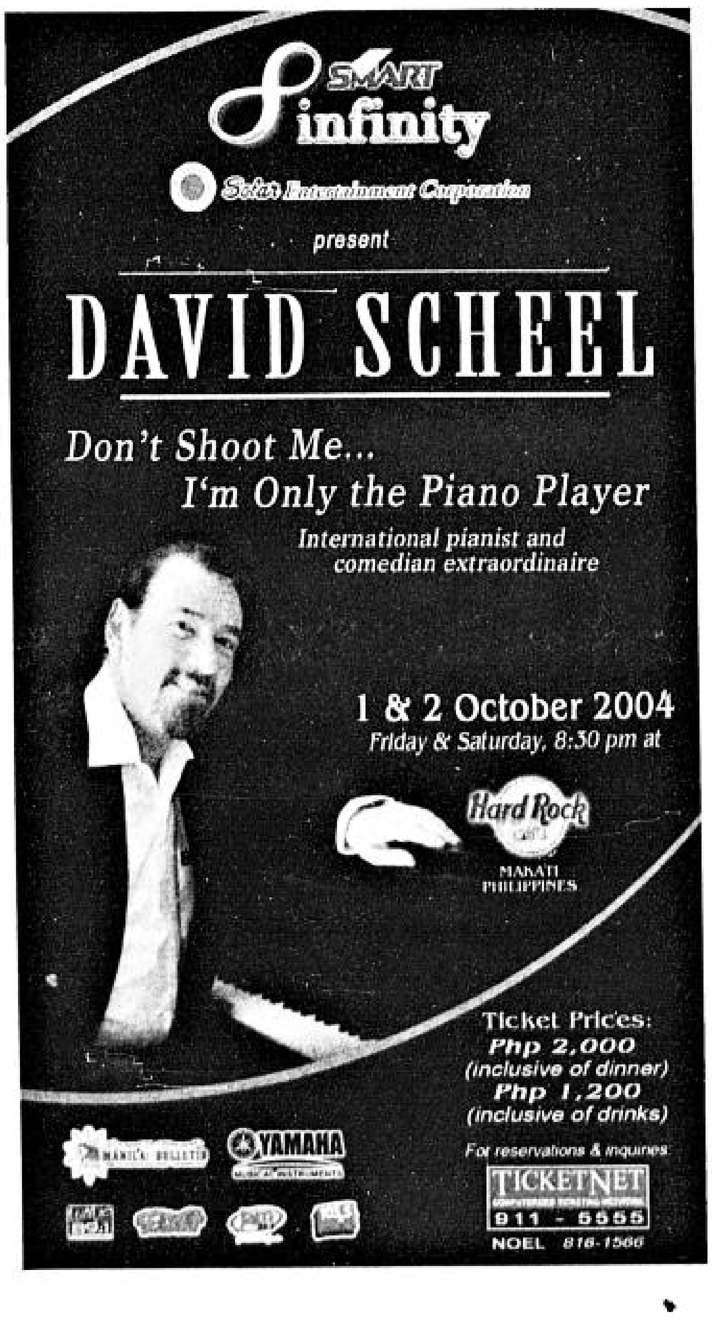

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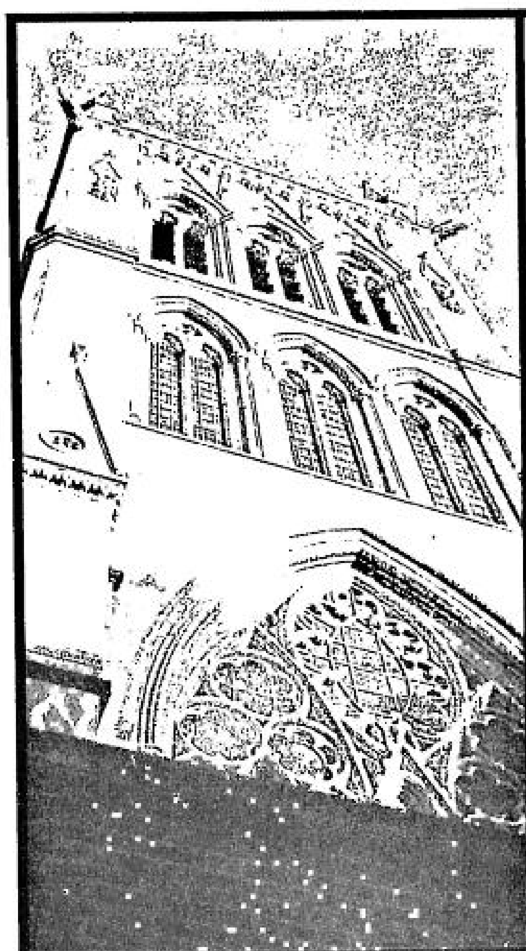

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- **English the Easy Way** (University of Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English)
The courses above will begin October 18, 2004. Slots are limited.
- **Awaken the Entrepreneur In You** (One Day Course)
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- **University of Cambridge International Diploma in Travel and Tourism**
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'Amazing Race' comes to the Philippines

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR THREE years now, we've been viewing "The Amazing Race" on cable TV. We find the show interesting because it combines travel with the excitement of a race to see which of its teams will be the first to reach the finish line after an exhausting and stressful trip around the world.

Other attractions include the varied personalities of the contestants chosen from thousands of applicants interested in seeing the world *and* winning some big prizes.

Then there's the "human nature" factor. The race becomes so stressful that contestants are forced to reveal their true colors. Occasionally, even close relationships are tested and even broken, and the psychological dramas and the insights derived therefrom are a compelling draw for some viewers.

"The Amazing Race" is so good that it recently won the Emmy for best reality competition, over some big shows like "The Apprentice," which is hosted by no less than **Donald Trump**.

This is regarded as a big upset, because "The Amazing Race" is a smaller production with a more modest viewership. But "Race" is a much more visual and dynamically exciting show than "Apprentice," so its Emmy victory is clearly merited.

Thus far, Filipino viewers have admired "The Amazing Race" from a distance, so to speak. But, last week, the show finally had a Philippine leg, which we made it a point to view.

Truth to tell, it wasn't as novel or exciting as some other episodes of the show that we've viewed through the years.

The four remaining pairs of contestants were required to outfit a jeepney with colorful decor and attachments, plow a rice paddy, travel by public transportation to the Coconut Palace—that sort of relatively humdrum thing.

The most interesting challenge was to plow the ricefield, particularly since one of the carabaos used turned out to have an ornery mind of its own. It took its hapless handler all over the paddy, and even beyond, and the poor guy could only curse his lousy fate.

Another unintentionally bemusing point of interest was the gonzo way that the contestants' Filipino drivers tried to beat our "famous" traffic.

And the contestants matched the drivers' anarchic ways by egging them on to increase their vehicles' speed, even if they put some pedestrians' lives in peril.

Things finally simmered down when the contestants reached the finish line at the Coconut Palace, where First Daughter **Luli Arroyo** graciously welcomed them to the Philippines. Trouble is, she wasn't identified—or did we miss her credit?

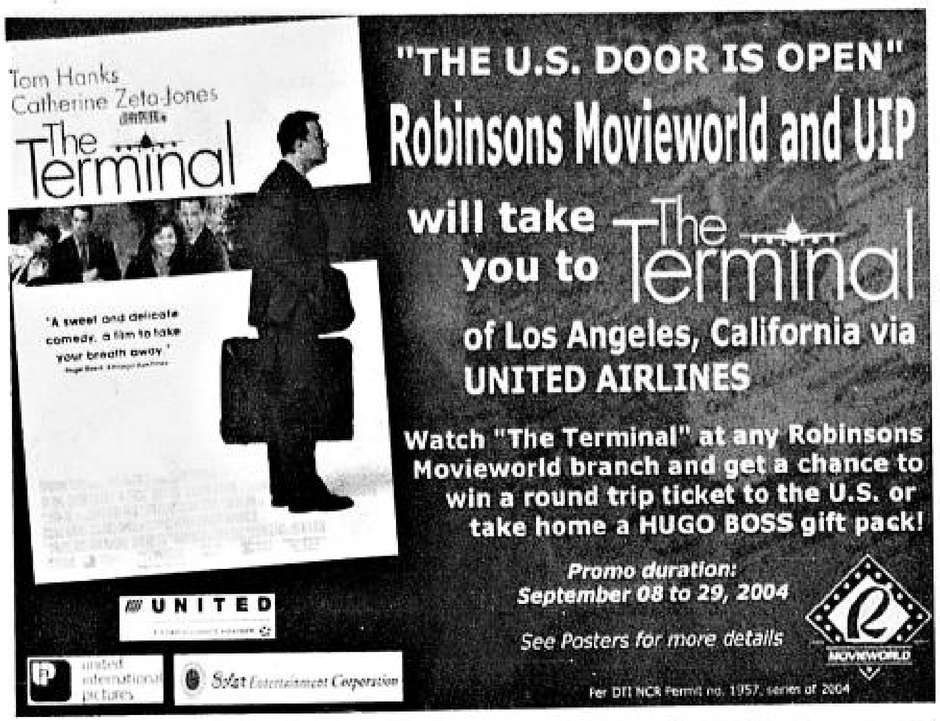
Assumption exhibit

ASSUMPTION College San Lorenzo's Media Production Majors are mounting an exhibit of their print ads for small and medium Filipino-owned enterprises on Oct. 1 and 2 at the Assumption College Student Lounge. The exhibit highlights Philippine culture through pictures, information and artifacts of the different regions and provinces of the country. The event opens on Oct. 1 at 12 noon, and there will be a mini-concert at 5 p.m. Call 0917-5320114 or e-mail xandripot@hotmail.com.

'Open Water'

CHRIS Kentis' film

AMAZING/ A36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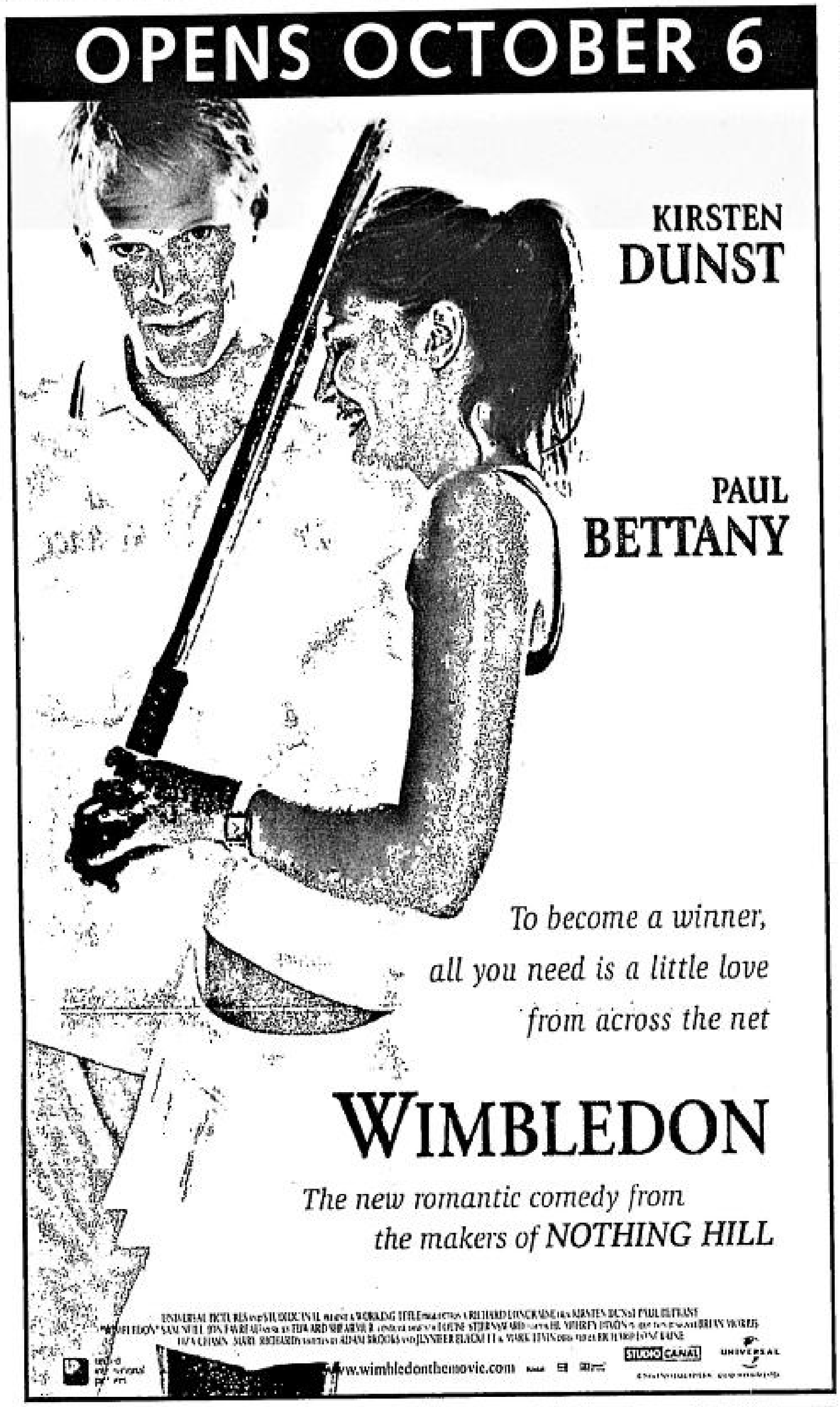
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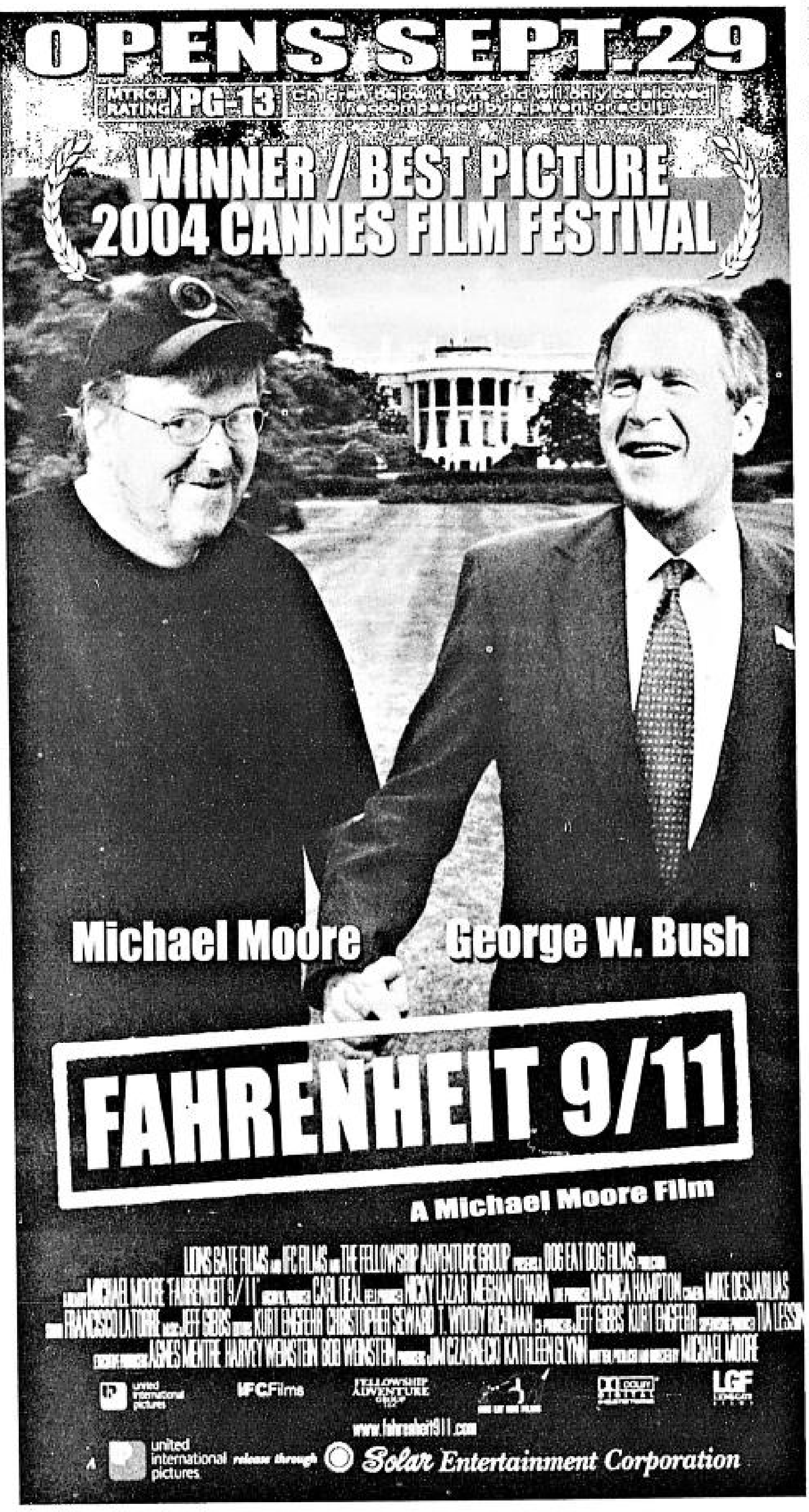
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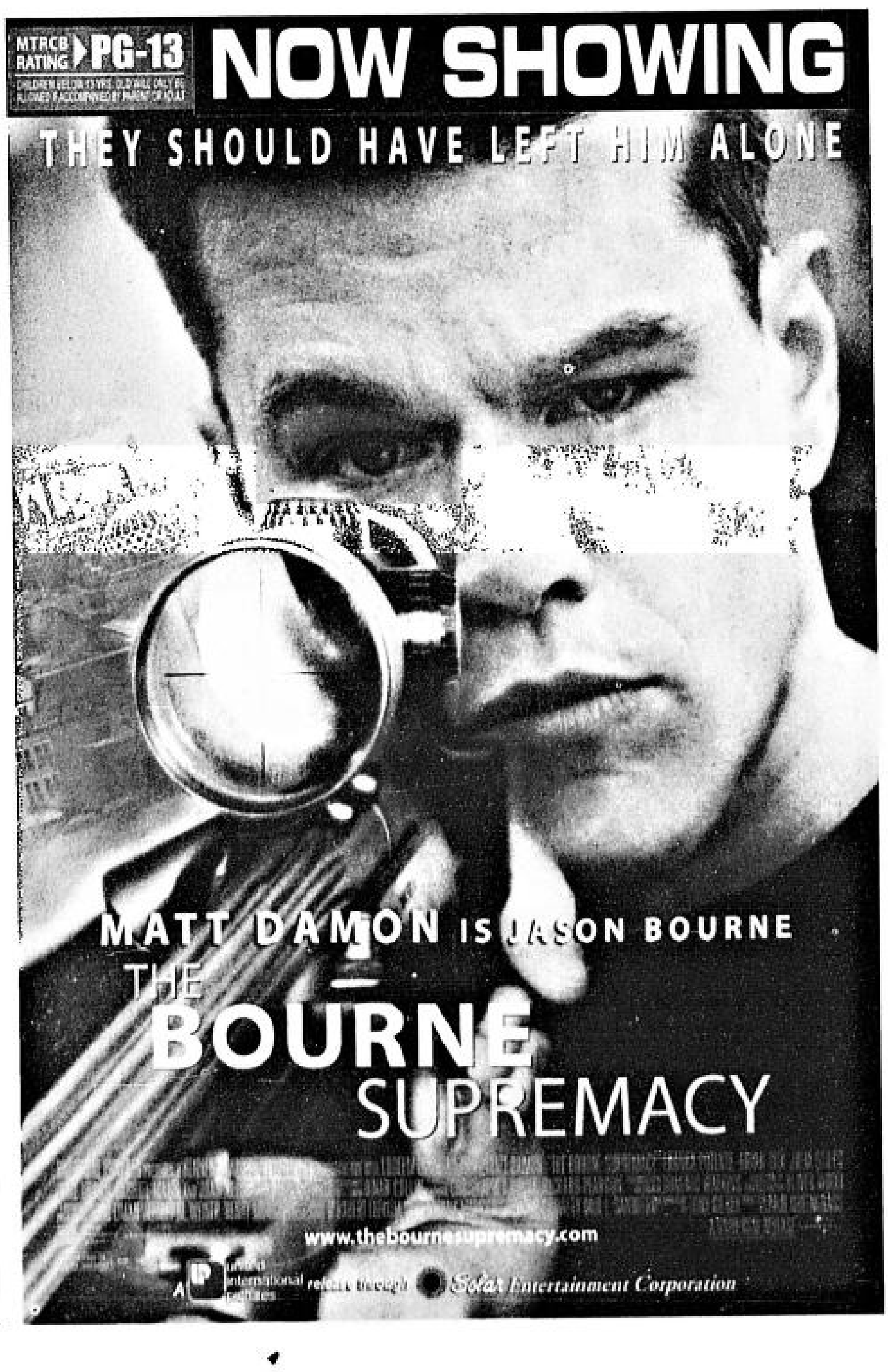
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5 FENG SHUI 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	6 HEAVEN'S POND 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	7 SAVED 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
8 THE NOTEBOOK 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	9 THE TERMINAL 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00	10 SECRETARY 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50

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2 SECRETARY 11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:20	3 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	4 HEAVEN'S POND 10:30, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:00
5 13 GOING ON 30 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	6 FENG SHUI 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	7 SAVED 10:20, 12:15, 2:10, 4:05, 6:00, 7:55, 9.50

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1 HEAVEN'S POND 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	2 SAVED 10:05, 12:15, 2:25, 4:35, 6:45, 9:00	
3 13 GOING ON 30 10:50, 12:50, 2.50, 4.50, 6.50, 9.00	4 THE TERMINAL 10:10, 1:05, 4.00, 6:55, 9:10	5 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING 11:20, 1:40, 4 00, 6 20, 8 35, 10 30
6 TAKAW TINGIN 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00	7 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 10.35, 1:00, 3:25, 5.50, 8:15, 10:30	8 FENG SHUI 11:20, 1:40, 4.00, 6:20, 8 40, 10 30

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1 EXORCIST:THE BEGINNING
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3 TAKAW TINGIN
4 EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING

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2 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
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1 THE TERMINAL
2 FENG SHUI
3 DODGEBALL
4 THE ALAMO
5 ANACONDAS
6 HAMOG

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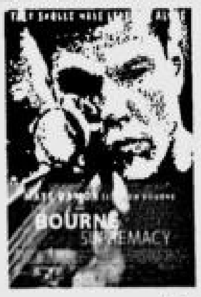
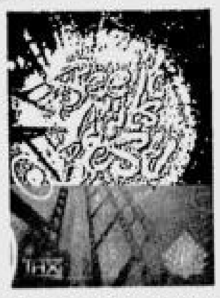
1 LAWS OF ATTRACTION
2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 FENG SHUI
4 THE TERMINAL
5 DODGEBALL
6 ANACONDAS





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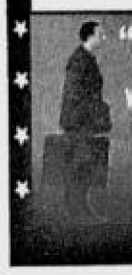

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2 THE TERMINAL	2 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	2 THE NOTEBOOK	6 FENG SHUI	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 1 00, 3 15, 5.30, 7.45, 10 00	2 THE NOTEBOOK
3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING	3 HEAVEN'S POND	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 THE BOURNE ... 11 15 1 30 3 45, 6.00, 8 15, 10.30	7 THE TERMINAL	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING 2 15, 4 40, 7.05, 9.30	3 EXORCIST THE BEGINNING
4 SAVED	4 FENG SHUI	4 SAVED		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 FENG SHUI 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00, 11 20	4 FENG SHUI
5 FENG SHUI				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE TERMINAL 1 30, 4 00, 6 30 9 00, 11 30	5 THE TERMINAL

GB1 GREENBELT 1

1 FENG SHUI 2:40, 5 00, 7:20, 9 40
2 THE BOURNE SUPREMACY 11 30, 1:45, 4 00, 6 15, 8 30

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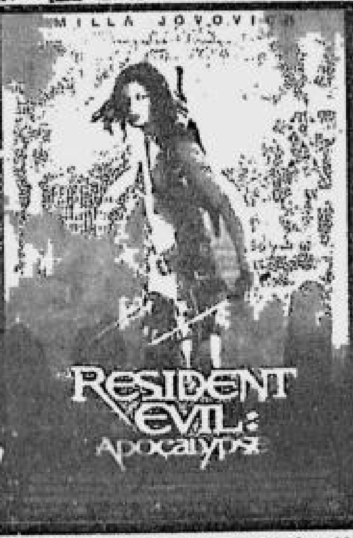

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Sizzling nights at Arkdia

ARKDIA Entertainment Venue in Malate is sizzling this September.

The Lemonade and Squib Cake bands give you music from the '70s, '80s and '90s every Monday. Groove to the pop music of Drop-6 and Clymaxx bands every Tuesday.

It's Ladies' Night Out every Wednesday with music by Surreal and Art n' Soul bands. Enjoy hip hop and R & B as Twisted Pair and Ignition bands perform every Thursday.

Celebrate Friday nights with Overload and Big Nite Out. Hit the dance floor and dance till you drop with Chillworx and Soda Pop bands every Saturday. Make your night light and easy every Sunday with Live Set and Soda Pop bands.

It's non-stop entertainment every night with DJs spinning in between band sets.

Arkdia Entertainment Venue is at 542-544 Remedios St., Malate, Manila. Call 404-1087, 400-9974 or 400-9776 or visit www.arkdia.com. The place is also open for private functions and special events.

'Amazing Race' comes...

From page A34

"Open Water" is based on true events. It follows an American couple, Daniel and Susan (**Daniel Travis** and **Blanchard Ryan**) on an island holiday in the Carribean. The couple boards a local dive boat for an underwater tour.

Due to momentary confusion, the couple is left behind while photographing aquatic life. Alone and adrift in shark-infested waters, their confusion turns to anger, fear, then terror.

Feedback

FROM **Paul R. Mortel** of Marikina City: "It would be a wonderful Christmas if the country's top singers could hold a concert at the Araneta Coliseum in December, with the proceeds to be given to our less fortunate brothers.

"This concert would be reminiscent of the 'We Are the World' concert for the benefit of the hungry people of Somalia."

'My Wife is a Gangster'

THE KOREAN action blockbuster, "My Wife is a Gangster," is now on VCD and DVD, and is being released by Viva Video. In the film, **Shin Eun-gyeong** plays a mob queen, who as a child was separated from her older sister. They get reunited when her sister is terminally ill. Her dying wish is that Shin's character should get married, and the mob queen pretends to acquiesce.

She orders her men to shop for a husband for her, they find a patsy in **Kang-Su-il**, and the comedy of error begins.

Falling head over heels in love with that Girl Valencia

By Conrad R. Banal III

SHOW TIME

THEY say just one song is all it takes for the listener to fall head over heels in love with the singer.

For the late National Artist Nick Joaquin, the song was "Someone to Watch Over Me." It is widely known among newshounds that this song alone turned the revered writer into a Girl Valencia groupie.

Girl who? That's Teresa Valencia, nicknamed Girl by her parents because her father's nickname is Boy. A former television newscaster, Girl Valencia has gone full circle around Metro Manila's hotel lounge and bar circuit as a singer in the last 10 years or so.

Nowadays this little Girl's blue notes, served in a soothing lilting voice, fill the lobby of Richmonde Hotel at the Ortigas Center. Valencia performs, with Ferdie Borja on the piano, every Tuesday night at Exchange Bar, the hotel's piano lounge on the second floor. Since the bar occupies an open area overlooking the lobby, anybody who enters the hotel can hear her singing. For most people, her singing is a siren's call.

Her 'managers'

The old love song, "My One And Only Love," Valencia at one time sang to near perfection. With this single song, she lured into her fold of adoring fans a group of political handlers—Brian Yamsuan, Peter Sing, Armand Sebastian and Ruben Pascual, former chief of staff of President Macapagal-Arroyo. They in turn have made it their mission in life to lure people to the bar as Girl Valencia groupies. The group claims to be managing this rare talent—without her knowing it. Sorry, she does not even need one.

Girl Valencia can never run out of gigs. Not in this lifetime anyway. How can she when she knows 300 songs by heart?

"Maybe even more," she says with a bit of embarrassment.

SMOLDERING, SENSUOUS Valencia sings more than 300 songs and has written as many.

HARD TO PLEASE. Valencia, singing with San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito (left), says Filipinos are a hard-to-please audience because every other guy can sing.

PHOTOS BY ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

She never sings the same song the same way twice. She may hang a note here once, twirl a line there the next time, even change the wordings. Valencia has resolved not to compete with the original version of any song in her repertoire. She believes that people will always find the original version better than hers, so she sings it her own way.

If you drop by the Exchange Bar, listen to her version of "Hound Dog," the Elvis Presley classic, and you'll swear you've never heard the song before. But, as sure as you're sitting there, it is "Hound Dog"—slow, smoldering, sensuous.

Hard to please

Valencia tries hard to sing every requested song. In the big music library in her mind is a broad variety of songs, from old jazz that only true jazz aficionados may recognize to modern pop songs, plus certainly most of the OPM hits. She knows songs so ancient she probably dug them up at some archeological site.

A graduate of communications from the Ateneo de Manila University, Valencia says she had a demanding mentor when she was just starting to make a living out of

FALLING/ A38

Angela to perform with Filipino musicians

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FILIPINOS are musically gifted and Filipino musicians can hold their own against the best in the world.

Still, there are those who would believe in the opposite, which explains the reluctance of many foreign artists to perform in the Philippines without their own back-up musicians.

Musical director Lorenzo B. Ilustre and his brothers in the entertainment industry, however, are quickly changing this mindset.

Ilustre tells the INQUIRER that the misgivings of foreign artists about playing with local musicians are understandable.

In order for a show to be successful, he explains, there must be rapport between the artist, the musicians and the musical director. This relationship is developed over time, so that artists usually play with the same people through many years.

Ilustre, however, says that once foreign artists try performing with local musicians, they immediately change their mind.

"They realize that Filipinos are really good, and they know it from the first few notes," Ilustre says in Filipino.

Filipino musical directors who have performed with foreign artists include the late Menchu Apostol, and Toti Fuentes who once played with Sergio Mendes. Fuentes is now in Chicago playing with Tony Orlando and Crystal Gayle.

Among the numberless Filipino musicians who have earned rave reviews abroad are Tateng Katindig, pianists Bobby Enriquez and Romy Posadas. The latter once backed up the legendary Tony Bennett, Al Jarreau and Diane Reeves.

Ilustre himself has worked with foreign artists such as Stephen Bishop, Michael Johnson, Christopher Cross, Kenny Rankin and Mike Francis.

Ilustre's latest assignment is to direct Angela Bofill, best known for her hits "This Time I'll Be Sweeter" and "Angel of the Night," among others. Bofill will perform at Merk's Bar Bistro at Greenbelt 3 in Makati City. Bofill's Sept. 27-28 shows coincide with Merk's second anniversary.

"Musical directors are in charge of the repertoire," explains Ilustre. "We are the link between the artist and the band. I should know how the artist feels and how she sings, so that the musicians can back her up well."

He says there is nothing like the moment during a show when the singer, the director, the musicians and the audience become one, carried away by the musical moment and getting a common natural high.

"There is that moment when we are of one beat, one fine tune, so that when you close your eyes, you could swear you were in heaven," Ilustre enthuses.

Luckily for Filipino musicians, that moment comes often.

"We have to maintain our reputation so that more Filipino musicians at home get the chance to perform with foreign artists," says Ilustre.

Angela Bofill comes 'home'

From page A33

Castillo.

Acoustic Jive will also be performing, with May Bayot on vocals, Romy Jorolan on vocals and steel guitar, Danny Buenaventura on flute and saxophone, Gerry Duran on nylon guitar, Bobby Fider on bass, Soc Alfafara on various percussion instruments, and Rene Tengga Santos on drums.

The incomparable Romy Posadas plays during Happy Hour at Merk's star-studded anniversary night.

Angela Bofill's performance is presented by Trademerk Concepts Inc., BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc., BMW Philippines Corp., Premier Wines & Spirits, OLT Ventures, and charMed (We Care, We Provide), 9L Wines, San Miguel Corp., Hotel Inter-Continental Manila (the official residence), Business World, Malaya, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, The Foreign Post, The Manila Times, Today, ABS-CBN, Dream 106, dwLL 94.7, dwTM 89.9, dzRJ FM, JAM 88.3, MYX, Wave 89.1, WRock 96.3, Crossover 105.1 and 923 Joey.

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Falling head over heels in love with that Girl...

From page A37

singing—the famous pianist Joselito Pascual. They teamed up at the Tap Room of the Manila Hotel in the 1990s. Those days, the pianist often gave her only a couple of days to learn a song.

"The Filipino music crowd is always hard to please," she says. "Maybe it's because every other guy can carry a tune."

This appealing singer also dabbles in writing children's books.

Even as far back as 1991 when she was in college, Valencia refused to sound like the original recording. Just for fun, she joined the Yamaha Singing Contest and won for her rendition of "Minsan Pa," a Louie Ocampo composition originally recorded by Joey Albert.

Peace, love, charity

Her voice is naturally mellow and sweet, not husky and certainly not high-pitched in the grating sort of way. She never shouts when she hits the high notes. Her singing therefore is soothing to the ear. Every word comes out clear.

Not even the group that claims to be her manager knows that Valencia won the Unesco's Peace Prize of Excellence for a song she herself had written. Unesco had wanted to commemorate with a song the 50th year of the devastation of the Japanese city Hiroshima in mankind's first deadly atomic explosion. Valencia submitted a tape of one of her hundreds of original compositions, "Breaking Barriers."

Valencia won the peace award. She went to Hiroshima that year to perform it herself, live. Unfortunately, the song was never recorded here or abroad, until this year. The Ateneo Boys Choir is releasing a new album which includes Valencia's "Breaking Barriers."

Valencia writes songs about love and peace and charity. They are never sad, angry, or belligerent. They are happy, uplifting songs. Valencia, in person and on stage, is full of life and optimism. Her groupies swear it is what makes Girl Valencia sexy in her own way.

She doesn't play any musical instrument. But she wakes up in the middle of the night with a tune in her head. And when her music wakes her up, she must put it on tape in her own voice. "The lyrics and the melody just come together," she reveals.

Movies and festivals

How many songs has she written? "About 300, maybe even more."

Another Girl Valencia composition made it to the finals of the Likhawit National Song Festival. And some years ago, songbird Regine Velasquez recorded a Girl Valencia song, "Tanging Mahal," as the theme song of the movie "Pangako Ikaw Lang," starring Regine and Aga Muhlach. The same song was nominated for best song in the Awit Awards.

Valencia also represented the Philippines in the Asean Festival of Songs held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

But Lady Luck has not smiled on Valencia in the field of recording. She has not done any recording. One reason may be her decision to stay away from the music world for a time. "Three years," she recalls, "while I was still married."

Before the self-imposed hiatus, she actually worked on an album of original songs, mostly hers. But one of the producers wanted to get part of the credit for the songwriting. Valencia did not want to compromise, and the project collapsed.

Now, Girl Valencia, after all the nights of piano and voice, wants to form a jazz acoustic quartet featuring drums, piano, fretless bass, and her immaculate voice.

JOGRAD dela Torre

Jograd's bar turns 2

JOGRAD'S Laffs and Music bar, owned by comedian-singer Jograd de la Torre, is celebrating its second anniversary fiesta-style on Tuesday, Sept. 28.

Jograd's regular performers, top sing-along masters, and impersonators will perform in a very special show. Expected to grace the celebration are Jograd's friends from show biz and politics who love to jam with the night's special performer, Sabor Latino.

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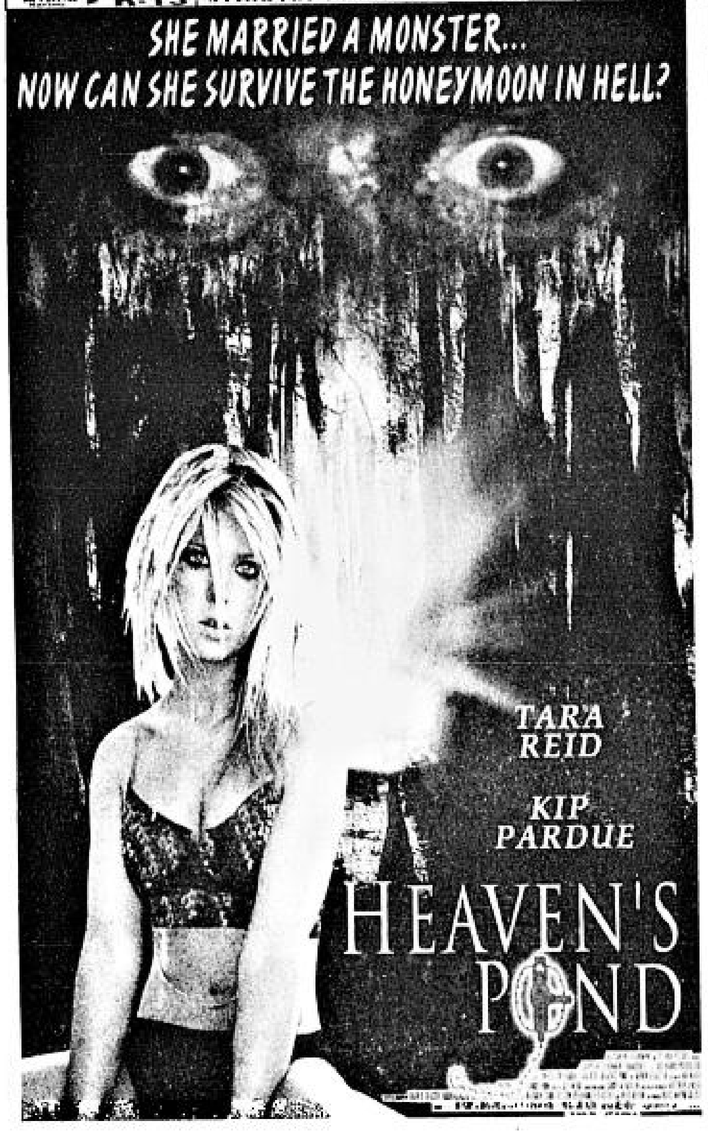

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5 dts EXORCIST 12:50 pm 3:30 pm 6:10 pm 8:50 pm
6 Dolby HEAVEN'S POND 12:00 nn 2:15 pm 4:30 pm 6:45 pm 9:00 pm
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QUEZON CITY	
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ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
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CORONET B	A MAN APART
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REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
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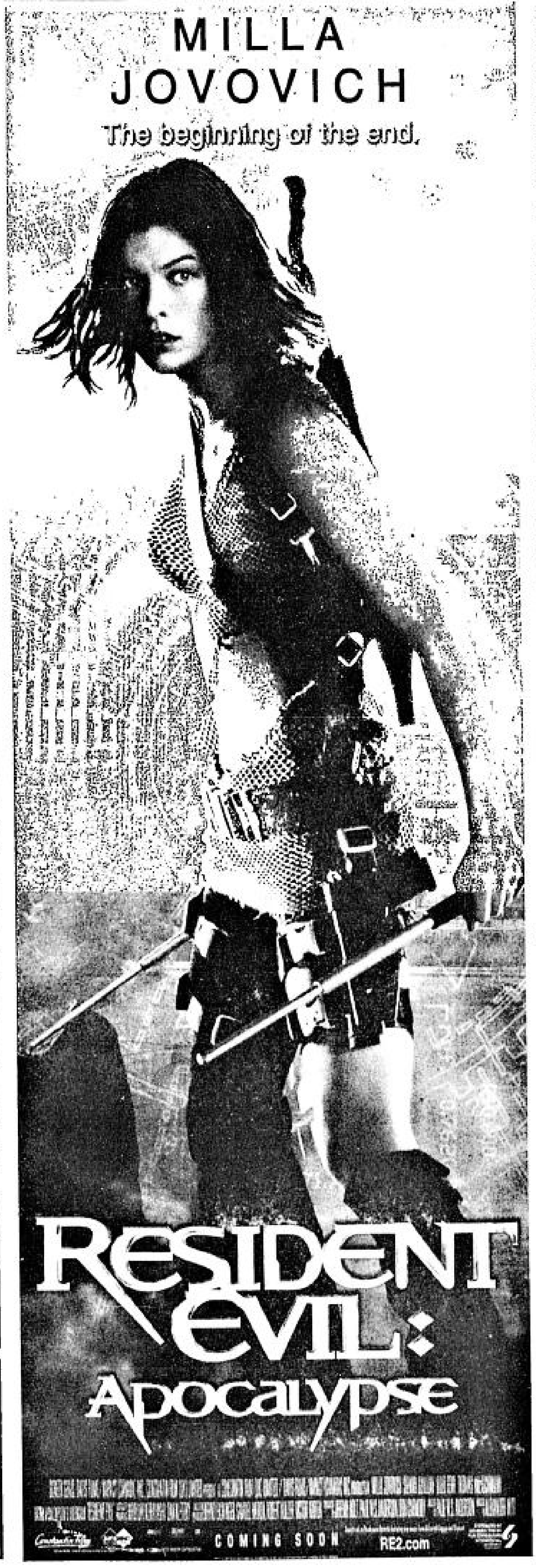

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FENG SHUI PG13 12:50,3:10,5.30,7:50,10:10	SAVED PG13 1:20,3:25,5:30,7:35,9:40	EXORCIST: THE BEGINNING R13 12:40,3:05

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3	THE TERMINAL 11:05, 2:00, 4:55, 7:50, 10:45 GP
4	THE EXORCIST 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:30 PG 13

Karylle...

From page A40

dress from that store. It's nice to support local designers."

Skirts. "I love this skirt because every time I wear it, people say, 'Wow! Where did you get that skirt?' I bought this at Linea.

"I bought a lot of skirts from Bayo and Rustan's for my character in 'Love to Love.' I also have skirts from *ukay-ukay*, most of which are P50 each as opposed to Bayo's P600. Sometimes, people think the skirts I bought from classy shops are from *ukay-ukay*. Can you guess which is which?"

Shoes. "I've had these rubber shoes since college. When I was still wearing them four years ago, people said, '*ang baduy baduy mo naman*.' They were still sort of close-minded to colorful shoes, unlike now *na patalbugan sa kulay*. I wear these when I'm in a bad mood so I'd feel energized.

"These high-heeled sandals are a gift from my mom. She knows I like Steve Madden shoes and I wear a lot of pink."

Hats. "People close to me call me K, my nickname. I like this break-dancing hat from Kangol because of its logo. I have this in black, blue and gray."

Accessories. "I know of this one store where you can buy lots of cute accessories. I won't tell where it is because I want it to be a secret. I bought this lucky anklet there. I consider it lucky because I won two contests while wearing it. I also won an Awit award recently. I bought a couple of earrings and bracelet from that shop, too.

"I got this bracelet in Las Vegas, where most of my mom's relatives live. I bought it the first time I went to Vegas all by myself."

Gym clothes. "I'm not the type who dresses up when I go to the gym. I like big T-shirts. But this jersey I'm wearing now is especially made. My mom and sisters all have one like this. Mine is No. 1 because I'm the first born. My mom's is No. 0, my sisters, No. 2 and No. 3.

"This is my favorite pair of rubber shoes. It's from Sketchers. I like it because it has a touch of pink. I wear this with skirts sometimes."

IN THE FAMILY. Afflicted with scoliosis (lateral curvature of the spine) like her mom Zsa Zsa and her aunt Amy Perez, she turns to Pilates and kick boxing (above) and goes to the gym.

'FLOATING' SHIRT. The shirt's color and message lift her spirit.

GUESS WHAT? Is this skirt from a classy shop or from "ukay-ukay"? Some of her friends can't tell.

TANK ATTACK. She favors white tanks because "I can dress them up or dress them down."

MAD ABOUT PINK. These Steve Madden slip-ons are gifts from mom Zsa Zsa.

Sulo's nightingales

GET mesmerized by the beautiful nightingales of Sulo Hotel's Diwata Cocktail Lounge who will bring you live music Monday to Friday, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., until Oct. 1.

Watch and listen to Cindy Rosas when she sings Monday and Friday; Emily Rey, Tuesday; Joan Frances, Wednesday; and Christine Barangan, Thursday.

For inquiries and reservations, call Sulo Hotel at 924-5051 to 71. Sulo Hotel is on Matalino Road in Diliman, Quezon City.

CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER
With less than 100 days to Christmas, Tim Tayag (second from left) and RJ Ledesma (fourth from left), the hilarious duo of "The Men's Room," already have their Christmas treat all wrapped up for their viewers in the show's episode for tomorrow, Tuesday. Sexy and sultry showgirl April Tolentino will be visiting the Room. To help out Mrs. Santa are her enticing and beautiful helpers, Lovely (right) and Johan.

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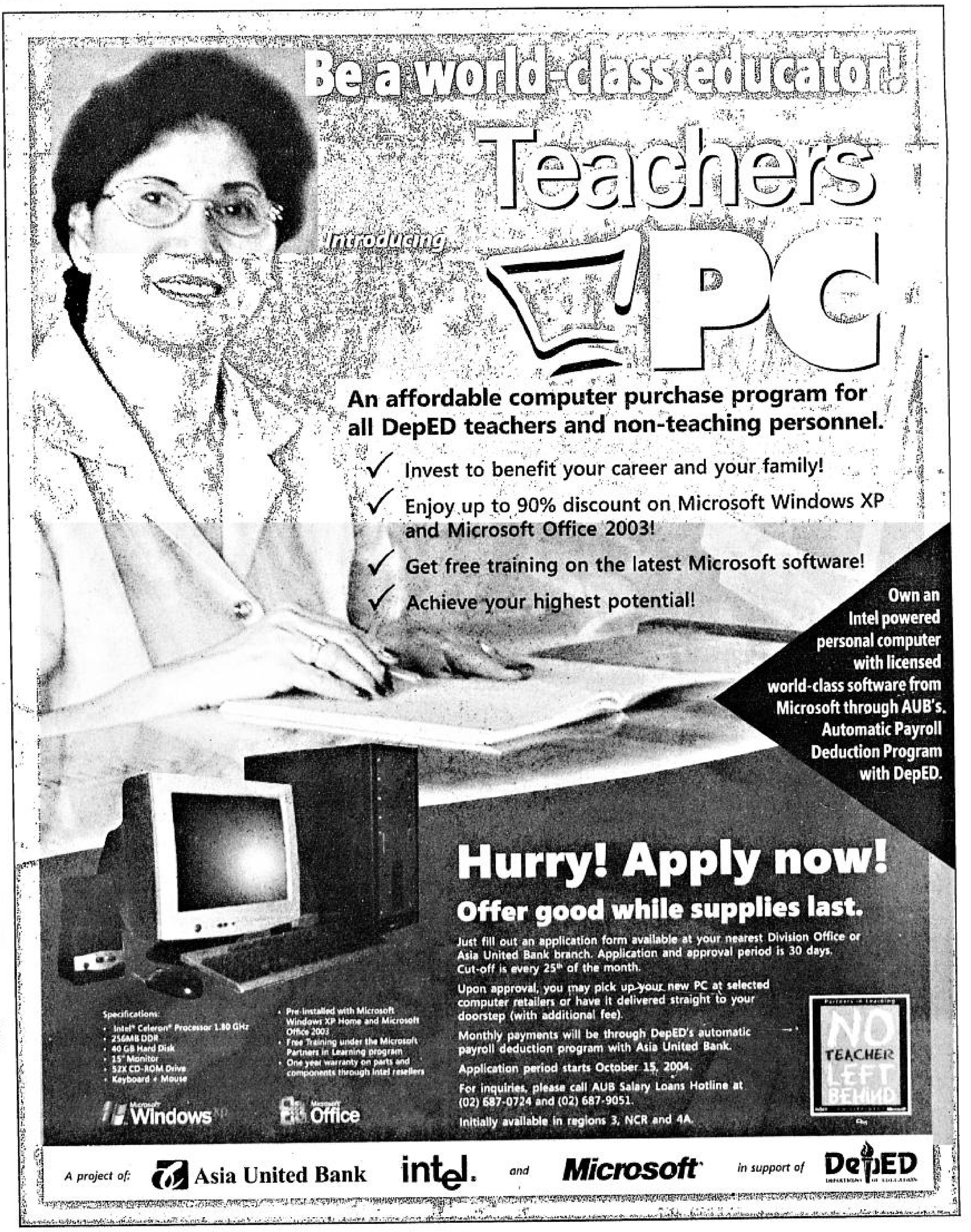

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ENTERTAINMENT

SHINING MOMENTS. Adorning a mini-office in the basement of her San Juan home are her awards, including the gold record for her debut album, "Time to Shine."

KARYLLE in a good mood

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

SINGER-ACTRESS Karylle says her relationship with her mom, singer-TV host Zsa Zsa Padilla, is the envy of many of her friends.

"She's a mom and a friend," Karylle says of Zsa Zsa, who had her when the latter was only 16. "My friends find it difficult to talk with their moms so they're jealous of our relationship. They would say, 'I wish I could tell my mom I love her.' I find that weird because I'm always like that to my mom just before we put the phone down,"

OUT OF THE CLOSET

But Karylle admits that she started spending more time with Zsa Zsa only this year. Zsa Zsa and Karylle's father, dentist Modesto Tatlonghari, had long been separated and Karylle grew up with her dad. Zsa Zsa has two teenage daughters with comedian Dolphy.

"I really prayed to have a better relationship with my mom," Karylle, 23, tells INQUIRER Entertainment at the Tatlonghari home in San Juan. "So I had this family healing thing when my mom and I visited her relatives in Las Vegas last December. After that, we went to Amanpulo with my sisters. We really bonded."

Zsa Zsa was present at each of the four birthday celebrations Karylle had last March. Since then, mother and daughter have been going out dancing. "My mom hardly goes out," says the daughter. "When she does, it's only with me."

FLOWERS AND SECRETS. She wears her favorite floral YRYS tube dress with drop earrings and a "lucky" anklet she bought at a "secret" shop.

Zsa Zsa is giving her full support to the fund-raising event Karylle is spearheading on Oct. 23 at Club 650 in Libis, Quezon City. The event, called "Goodminton Cup: Badminton for a Good Cause," aims to raise funds for the Com-Tech 02 Scholarship Fund, which Karylle helped form with her classmates at the Ateneo de Manila, where she took up communications technology management.

"It's a sports fair," Karylle explains. "There will be a badminton tournament, a basketball exhibition with the San Miguel team, football and boxing exhibitions."

In the evening, Karylle and Zsa Zsa will perform in a mini-concert, along with Kyla, Malik and the R&B group 17:28. Stars like Richard Gomez, Rufa Mae Quinto and Karylle's aunt, Amy Perez, will also play.

"When it comes to shopping, my mom and I are exact opposites," says Karylle. "She hates trying clothes on before buying them. So I get the stuff she feels doesn't fit her well. But she gets irritated with me because I take so long. I prefer shopping alone."

Karylle plays the *probinsyana* character Cathy on "Love to Love," opposite Dingdong Dantes' rich-boy character, David.

Hair and make-up artist Audie Bermejo describes Karylle's make-up preference as "very simple."

"It's good that the roles she gets are similar to her personality," says Audie. "She only gets daring with her make-up when she has to attend award ceremonies or go to shows.

"As a singer, I have to wear show clothes," says Karylle. "If you're a singer, you can't always be in florals and pastels."

Shirts. "I like this yellow Topshop blouse. It brightens my mood.

"I have many versions of the white tank. I like them because they can be worn with anything. You can dress them up or dress them down.

"This other Topshop shirt is also nice. It says 'floating on my cloud.' It's really for good-mood days.

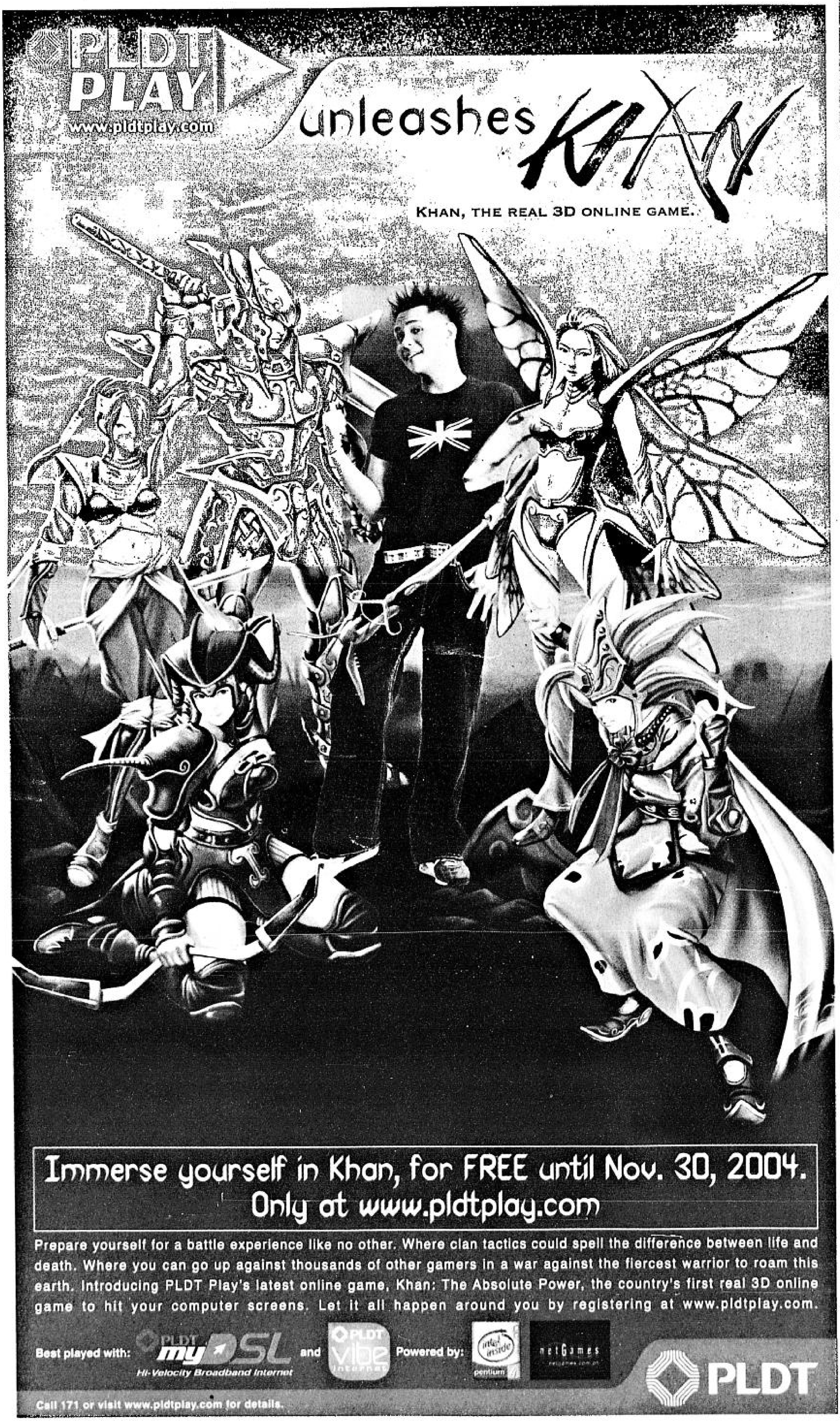
Dresses. "This old rose beaded chiffon terno is from my grandmother. I wore it once as a costume for a Maria Clara role in a school play.

"This is made of *piña* fabric. I wore it in a fashion show in Palawan last year, when I modeled for the first time. I also got a free trip to Palawan, where I met the people who made my dress.

"This floral tube dress is new. It's colorful and very girly. It's from YRYS. Their dresses are not so expensive. I also have a denim

KARYLLE/ A39

SIMPLY LIKE HER. She prefers very simple make-up, says make-up artist Audie Bermejo.



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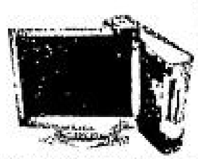
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RP foreign debt burden hits $56.3B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S foreign debt stock stood at $56.3 billion as of end-June this year, up by $400 million from a year ago but lower than the $56.7 billion reported a quarter ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported.

BSP officer-in-charge Armando Suratos said there were net inflows of about $400 million arising from fresh borrowings during the second quarter. This was, however, nearly offset by some $300 million in residents' investments in Philippine debt paper issued abroad.

"The decline in the total debt stock was brought mainly by the revaluation of some $400 million in foreign debt due to the weakening of most third currencies against the US dollar," Suratos explained. Third currencies refer to those other than the peso and the dollar.

He said the Japanese yen accounted for 81.9 percent of total revaluation adjustment.

The total debt stock remained largely US dollar-denominated at 52.1 percent of the total. Yen-denominated obligations accounted for 27.9 percent.

The rest of the country's outstanding debt was in 17 other currencies, with the euro and special drawing rights (or SDRs, the currency used by the International Monetary Fund) representing 6.9 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively.

Compared to end-June 2003 level of $55.9 billion, the external debt approved and registered by the BSP as of end-June this year grew by $400 million or 0.7 percent.

"The debt stock remained heavily biased toward medium- to long-term accounts (at) 88.2 percent of the total," Suratos said.

These loans have an average maturity of 17 years. The public sector borrowings have a longer term of 19.3 years while private sector debts have an average maturity of 11.1 years.

Gross disbursements of medium- to long-term accounts during the period amounted to more than $1.5 billion, of which 70.7 percent consisted of public sector transactions.

About 48 percent of public sector disbursements were used for budgetary requirements and various social and infrastructure projects.

BSP loans for reserve management purposes accounted for 15.3 percent while the borrowings of government banks for relending activities comprised 7.1 percent of the total. The balance of 29.3 percent consisted of private sector loans to finance projects in the power, transportation and communication sectors.

Suratos said the country's debt profile remained "well diversified", with official creditors--multilateral and bilateral lenders providing official development assistance--accounting for 44.3 percent. The next biggest creditor group consisted of foreign holders of bonds and notes, which accounted for 26.7 percent. Banks and other financial institutions accounted for 21.2 percent.

Suratos noted that the country's gross international reserves stood at $16 billion as of end-August, covering 2.4 times the level of short-term debts based on original maturity.

The government sets a ceiling for foreign borrowings each year in compliance with the Foreign Borrowing Act, which restricts the budget for debt servicing to 25 percent of all foreign exchange receipts such as exports, remittances and services.

Philippine borrowers are required to seek prior BSP approval before incurring any foreign loan.

INDICATORS

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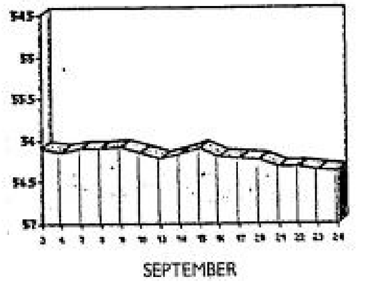

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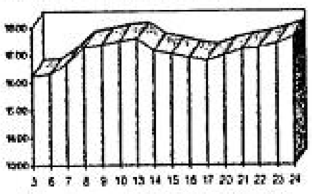
STOCK MARKET

Stock surge seen gaining momentum

ANALYSTS see the market's burst of energy to continue burning this week, fanned by brighter prospects for the economy and third-quarter corporate earnings.

What could moderate buying interest, however, are threats of

STOCK/ B6



(See stock market report on Page B6)

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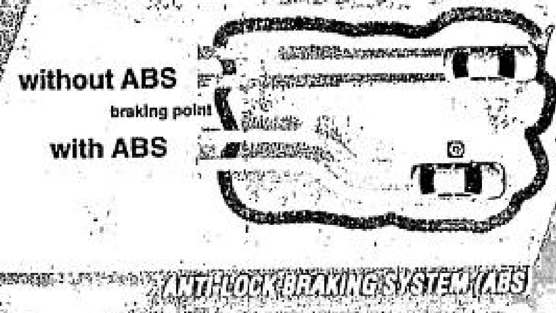

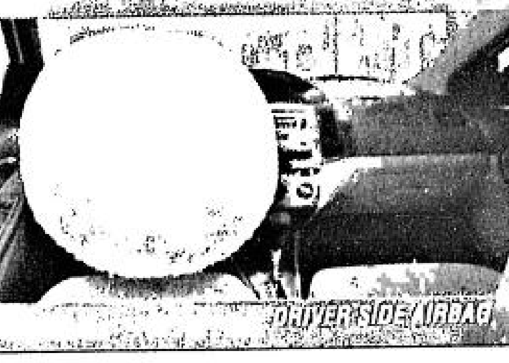

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Forex reserves seen falling below $16B due to weak exports

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINES' foreign exchange reserves are at risk of dropping below the benchmark level of $16 billion next year because of weak export growth coupled with an aggressive rise in imports.

International investment bank Bear, Stearns & Co. said this, adding that the country's posting of a bigger trade deficit was ill-timed given that inflows from foreign direct investments and portfolio investments remained low.

In July, the country's trade deficit swelled by 37 percent from a year earlier, as the value of imports outpaced exports.

The July deficit grew to $310 million from $226 million a year earlier. Imports in the same month stood at $3.416 billion, or 5.6 percent higher than the $3.236 billion recorded in the same month last year. Exports reached $3.106 billion, or 3.2 percent higher from a year earlier.

Bear, Stearns & Co. said in a paper on the Philippine economy that the country's larger trade deficit in July, if sustained, could reduce the country's current account surplus from $3.3 billion last year to only $1.9 billion this year, and even lead to a slight deficit next year.

A shift from a surplus position to a deficit in current accounts could pull down gross international reserves below $16 billion, a benchmark below which creates market jittery, according to the investment bank.

It said that should the reserves fall down below $16 billion, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas could be forced to borrow $300 million to $500 million to keep the reserves at comfortable levels.

"This has been a continuing concern of central bank Governor Rafael Buenaventura, who has warned the government about relying too much on peso financing, out of concern over the impact of such a financing strategy on foreign exchange reserve levels," Bear, Stearns said.

In June, gross international reserves declined by 2.3 percent to $16.159 billion, down from $16.546 billion in the previous month. Net reserves decreased to $13.861 billion in June from $14.242 billion in May.

According to the BSP, the June GIr level was enough to pay for 4.4 months worth of imported goods and services.

The BSP earlier proposed that the national government's foreign borrowings be raised to 40 percent of its total borrowing requirements for 2005. The borrowing mix for next year was initially set at 78-22 in favor of domestic sources.

The Department of Finance, however, is not keen on making the government borrow a substantial amount from foreign sources, careful not to expose the country's already precarious financial condition to foreign exchange volatility.

Bear, Stearns said the relatively small 3.2-percent export growth in July was partly attributed to the decline in demand from Asian countries like China, Hong Kong and Malaysia. It said these countries were major participants in intra-Asian electronics trade, and their weaker demand has affected the Philippines, whose top exports were electronics products.

The investment bank added that the high imports, meanwhile, was a result of the higher-than-expected gross domestic product growth in the first half of the year. The high growth gave more purchasing power to local consumers, it said.

Gov't urged to keep petrochem tariffs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ASSOCIATION of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines has asked the government to keep the tariffs on petrochemical imports from Southeast Asia at between 7 percent and 10 percent up to 2010 to give the local upstream sector enough time to develop.

APMP executive director Mario Jose E. Sereno said he told the Tariff Commission during a hearing last week that the group was pursuing an extension of the tariff setup under Executive Order No. 161.

Issued on Jan. 9. 2003, EO 161 set the Asean Free Trade Area's Common Effective Preferential Tariff on petrochemical products at between 7 percent and 10 percent up to end-2004.

This, even if the Afta agreement provides that duties on petrochemical products should be reduced to 5 percent starting 2003.

Malacañang explained that a reduction of the tariffs to a uniform 5 percent would cause "real problems with respect to the establishment of a fully integrated and viable petrochemical industry."

APMP's Sereno said the conditions that justified the issuance of EO 161 continued to persist.

"We affirm that the industry is now on the verge of establishing a naphtha cracker plant that will be operational in 2008," he said.

A naphtha cracker processes naphtha—a by-product of petroleum refining—to produce raw materials for plastic products manufacturing.

That there was still no such facility in the country was one of the factors why the Department of Trade and Industry pushed for the continued tariff support for local petrochemical firms resulting in EO 161, Sereno said.

Further, he said there were tariff distortions on certain consumer plastic products under the Afta-CEPT scheme and that this could be removed if tariffs on the products were pegged at 10 percent.

Last month, JG Summit Petrochemicals Corp. announced it had revived plans to build a naphtha cracker at its petrochemical complex in Batangas City.

JGSPC did not say how much it would invest in the facility, but an industry source said it would cost some $300 million.

JGSPC's chief operating officer Wilfredo A. Paras said its latest cracker project model would have a capacity of producing 350,000 metric tons of raw materials for plastic products yearly.

No more freeloaders under the tax code

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THERE is an insurance policy called All Risks. This policy opens with this sentence. "This policy insures against all risks of loss or damage except..." Then follows a three-page list of exceptions—in small print.

Our tax code is like an All Risks insurance policy. Take Title IV on the value added tax (VAT). The opening Section 105 says, "Any person who, in the course of trade or business, exchanges, leases goods or properties, renders services, and any person who imports goods, shall be subject to the value added tax..." Everybody is taxable, right? Wrong. Further down Title IV, under Section 109, is an alphabetical list of 26 (count them, 26) categories of transactions that are exempt from the tax. If there were more letters to the alphabet, the list probably would have been longer.

To be sure, some of the exemptions are truly meritorious. For example, "services rendered by individuals pursuant to an employer-employee relationship." Another is "educational services rendered by private educational institutions, duly accredited by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports and the Commission on Higher Education." Private schools save the government a lot of money; the least the government can do in return is to exempt them from the VAT. Still another is certain "medical, dental, hospital and veterinary services."

But the rest of the exemptions could only have been the result of intense lobbying by special interest groups. Let me discuss just three of these exemptions.

First, the "importation of passenger and/or cargo vessel of more than 5,000 tons, whether coastwise or ocean-going, including engine and spare parts of said vessel, to be used by the importer himself as operator thereof." In other words, importing vessels of less than 5,000 tons that ply from barrio to coastal barrio where there are no wharves are subject to the VAT. This makes no sense. If tax exemptions are to be granted, it should be on the small boats.

Second, the exemptions on the sales by agricultural cooperatives should be scrapped. The members of a cooperative get their competitive advantage from the elimination of the middleman. But the sale of the agricultural cooperative's produce to the public, members or non-members, should be taxed.

Third, "the sale by the artist himself of his works of art, literary works, musical compositions and similar creations, or his services performed for the production of such works." I guess this exemption is based on the notion that God-given talents should be tax-free. The artist himself, having been so richly endowed by the Almighty, should be more than happy to share the fruits of his endeavors by paying VAT. Besides, it is the art enthusiast, who is also usually richly endowed (the poor cannot afford art), who pays the tax. If the buyer is wealthy enough to buy high-priced works of art, he should have enough means left to pay the VAT.

The VAT system—or, for that matter, the entire tax code—is further weakened by exemptions not found in the tax code but granted under special laws. Take the mass housing law. All services and goods used in the production of government-financed low-cost housing are VAT-exempt. Not only that, land used for low-cost housing is not subject to the donor's tax. For good measure, the profits of mass housing developers are exempt from income tax. Yet, there is no hard evidence that these tax exemptions have benefited the poor home buyers.

Then, there are the tax exemptions granted to so-called pioneering ventures and Build Operate Transfer (BOT) contracts.

The entire tax code bristles with exemptions. To top it all, there is a list of exemptions in the BIR's implementing rules, such as those granted to lawyers and medical doctors.

The benefits of tax exemptions are supposed to filter down to the consumer in the form of lower prices. But, there is no hard evidence that tax exemptions have served the consumer at all. My guess is that tax exemptions have resulted in huge profits for the exempted enterprises.

These rafts of tax exemptions are one major reason why tax collections have dropped in relation to the gross domestic product (graft and corruption at the BIR are the other reasons). The tax-exempt goods and services are part of GDP but the freeloaders do not share in the tax burden. What is worse, these freeloaders are probably the first and the loudest to complain of the quality of government service.

Therefore, along with inventing new taxes and raising the rates of old taxes, such as the VAT, the whole range of tax exemptions, in and out of the tax code, should be cut down to the minimum. Otherwise, those who have been tax-free all these past years will enjoy an even bigger windfall. Enough of freeloaders.

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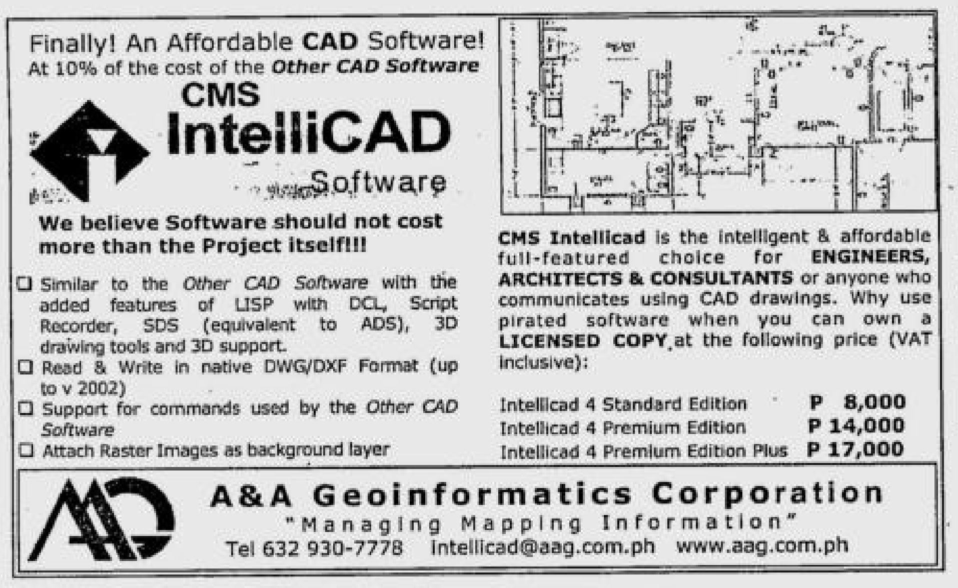

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HOSPITALIA ACTIVEHEALTH (PHILIPPINES), INC., a corporation duly recognized and existing under Philippine laws with principal office at 4/F, Fortune Bldg., Legaspi Village, Makati City, hereby serves notice that on June 18, 2004, the stockholders and the board of directors of said corporation, with a legal quorum respectively acting throughout a special meeting duly called in accordance with its By-Laws, have amended its Articles of Incorporation by shortening its corporate life effective October 31, 2004, subject to approval of the Securities and Exchange Commision.

(Sgd.) RUFO C. VENUS, JR.
Corporate Secretary
ADVT.

Sunlife targets new clients

INSURANCE giant Sun Life Financial has developed non-traditional financial products to attract new clients.

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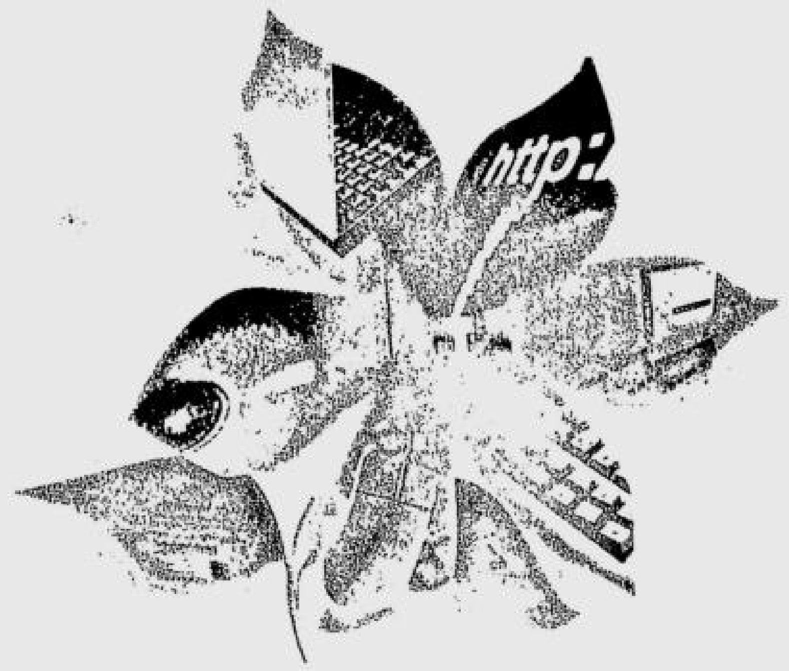

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THE PRUMERICA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
Synopsis of Annual Statement
As of 31 December 2003

ADMITTED ASSETS

Bonds	P	488,308,761.34
Treasury Bills		24,224,201.00
Policy Loans		5,220,852.00
Security Fund		141,244.00
Cash on Hand and in Banks		774,376,587.12
Electronic Data Processing Equipment		17,397,503.00
Amount Due from Ceding Companies		283,359,484.00
Amount Recoverable from Accepting Companies		499,670.00
Net Life Insurance Premiums & Annuity Considerations Due & Uncollected		3,765,334.00
Accrued Investment Income		11,582,514.07
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	P	1,608,876,150.53

LIABILITIES

Aggregate Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts	P	95,664,653.00
Policy and Contract Claims		15,056,950.00
Liability for Premium Deposit Funds		112.00
Policy & Contract Liabilities not included elsewhere		2,266,430.00
Amount Due to Accepting Companies		2,447,596.00
Amount Payable to Ceding Companies		161,032,021.00
Commissions Payable		4,921,956.00
Accrued Expenses		95,343,091.00
Taxes Payable		19,214,080.71
Unearned Investment Income		576,961.00
Other Liabilities		42,653,886.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	P	439,177,736.71

STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Capital Stock Paid-Up	P	250,000,000.00
Contributed Surplus		50,000,000.00
Contingency Surplus		541,312,193.00
Retained Earnings		328,386,220.82
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P	1,169,698,413.82
TOTAL LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	P	1,608,876,150.53

(This synopsis, prepared from the 2003 Annual Statement, approved by the Insurance Commissioner is published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code.)

Was it the chauffeur or the papaitan?

We've never figured it out really, what worked better in the end, but we're thankful anyway.

Mrs. Gwen Roces had always been accompanied by her husband to the bank. He'd open the door for her, see her through, explain what the forms were for, tell her where to sign. And she'd always be listening cheerfully, her pen flashing in compliance. She was glad, we guessed, to have someone sorting out all the forms and procedures for her.

But the day came when Mr. Roces, quite regrettably, passed away. And our account with his wife appeared doomed to follow in his footsteps as well.

Until we remembered that she had never, in all her years with us, come to the bank by herself. It was always an adventure she embarked upon with her husband. And something we couldn't expect her to do alone.

So we arranged for a driver to pick her up at her house and bring her over. Smiling awkwardly, she stepped into the car. And just as awkwardly, we stepped into the role long reserved for her husband.

Smile by smile, we navigated the course of her transactions with her. And told her that if she wanted, we could keep on doing the same thing for her every time she needed to visit the bank. Her smile was all the yes we needed.

We took her to lunch, too, that day. To a place that, to our knowledge, served the best papaitan in Manila (we had learned earlier that it was, strangely enough, her favorite dish). She talked about how she was coping with the loss of her husband, about how the house seemed too big now, about how helpful people had been to her. And how the papaitan fell somehow short of its billing.

We had the driver bring her back home and we heard nothing from Mrs. Roces for the next two weeks. And then she called, asking to be picked up. She had some deposits to make, she said. And a newly cooked pot full of what was truly, as we discovered, the best papaitan in Manila.

(If this doesn't sound like the kind of relationship you have with your bank, you may want to give us a try.)

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"I have attended a month-long course before but I learned more in one day in this seminar." – Company President
"It really made me wonder why through out all these years not a single author of a book in accounting has thought of it." – Accounting professor

Slower second half

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

WHILE the economy posted a 6.3-percent growth in domestic output (as measured by GDP) in the first six months of 2004, nobody, not even the government, expects this rate of growth to be sustained in the second half of the year. The most optimistic forecast, expectedly, comes from the government, whose upgraded growth forecast for the full year is now 5.9 to 6.1 percent--which means that they expect the economy to grow by only 5.5 to 5.9 percent in the second half. The Asian Development Bank recently announced their revised growth forecast for the year of 5.5 percent, implying that they only expect a 4.7-percent growth in the second semester. Our revised forecast based on the Ateneo Macroeconomic Forecasting Model (AMFM) is 5.5 to 6.1 percent, which means we expect second semester growth to range only between 4.7 to 5.9 percent.

It seems everybody agrees that we are in for a tougher, slower second half. Why this relative pessimism?

Not from government

One thing's for sure: no stimulus can be expected from government expenditures for the rest of the year, given the severe belt-tightening that is now being done in the face of the fiscal crisis. In contrast, first semester output saw a boost from an uncharacteristic double-digit (12.1 percent) growth in government construction, after having consistently posted negative growth in recent memory. That government managed such highly unusual growth in public construction—outpacing private construction, which only grew 7.9 percent—is not surprising given the timing, but rather surprising knowing the tight budgetary situation that had been prevailing. Even more surprising is the recent announcement that the government managed to keep within the targeted national government budget deficit for the second quarter with a few billion pesos to spare.

How did they do it? Could it mean that much of that construction remain as "accounts payable"—meaning that there are a lot of unhappy contractors out there who remain unpaid? Dr. Rosario Manasan has in fact described this as government's creative new way of "financing the deficit." That is, simply withhold payment of bills, and the government is in effect able to obtain new forced loans, not from banks, but from contractors—and without interest at that! No wonder, then, that government contractors routinely pad their contract amounts, even well beyond the commissions and the "SOPs" they have to fork over to corrupt officials. They have to somehow recover the interest cost of their involuntary loans to government. In any case, we can't expect to see more of that for the remainder of the year.

Rising prices, interest rates

The other major damper to growth in the second half of the year will be the faster increase in prices, mostly induced by the high oil prices. After two years of a stable 3.1-percent annual inflation rate, prices are now rising at more than twice that speed. This will have a direct impact on growth of consumption expenditures, which has consistently provided the strongest demand-side stimulus to the economy in recent periods, including the first half of this year. Couple this with the observed slowdown in inward remittances which have largely been fueling consumption growth, and we'd get significantly slower growth in personal consumption expenditures for the rest of the year.

At the same time, it's getting more and more costly for businesses to sustain investments due to rising interest rates, pushed up by the government's heavy demands for loanable funds. The textbook "crowding out" phenomenon resulting from large government deficits is coming into play here, and the casualty will be production, and yes, jobs.

In turn, the rising interest rates also figure into increased costs of production, and would add further to the already rising inflation induced by oil prices. The net effect of it all would be a slowdown in the two other sources of domestic demand apart from government, i.e. private consumption and investment.

No help from exports

With consumption, investment and government expenditures all likely to slow down, one would hope that the remaining source of demand—exports—would help save the day. No such luck, it seems. Latest foreign trade figures from NSO report a dramatic slowdown in both exports and imports in July, compared to the previous month. Will the slowing trend continue? Softening demand for our electronics and semiconductor exports--making up close to 70 percent of our export earnings--appear to indicate so. Here our fortunes rely heavily on how the US and Japanese economies fare, and indications are not very encouraging. There are already signs of weakening growth in both economies due to rising oil prices, apart from the continuing trouble in Iraq and lingering threats of terrorism.

What about China, which has increasingly been gobbling up much of our exports of raw materials and intermediate goods? The bad news is, they are now deliberately putting on the brakes on their phenomenal economic growth, afraid of overheating their economy. So we can anticipate a slowing Chinese demand for our exports as well.

All told, we're in for a much slower second half. And we're all in it already. I don't know about you, but I can feel it in my pocket.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

MRT firm pushes extension project

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

METRO Rail Transit Corp., a consortium of companies leading the Metro Rail Transit project, said it was optimistic it could finish building an extension of the MRT-3 project by 2006 as soon as it secures a favorable opinion from the Department of Justice on the project this year.

Fil-Estate Corp. chair Robert John Sobrepeña said the consortium, of which Fil-Estate is a member, was awaiting a decision from the DOJ on the group's right to construct the railway extension.

"I hope it is soon and hopefully we can finish it by 2006. The sooner we start, the sooner we can save money (for government)," he said.

The second phase of the MRT-3 project is a 5.1-kilometer transit system that will add three new stations from the North Triangle station in Quezon City to Monumento. The three stations will cross Roosevelt, Balintawak and Monumento.

Once completed, ridership will increase to 1.3 million passengers a day from the current 400,000 a day.

Phase II is seen to generate revenues of roughly $300 million by 2030 combined with Phase I and cut government subsidies by $300 million or roughly P16.8 billion on its 12th year of operation.

Phase II will also allow those living in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Bulacan access to the central business districts in Manila via Edsa once Phase II has been completed.

Last March, the Department of Justice said the MRT extension should be put up for public bidding since the agreement between MRTC and the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC) for building the extension has lapsed.

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10% DOWNPAYMENT

11% INTEREST

10 YEARS TO PAY

BATAAN CITY

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 300sqm. F A 189sqm
Halcon Street, Mt View Subdivision, Brgy. Cabcaban, Marveles, Bataan
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,640,000.00

NUEVA ECIJA

UCPB – AGRO – INDUSTRIAL LOT
L A 1,436sqm
Along Right of Way, Brgy. San Pascual, Talavera,
Minimum Bid Price. P360,000.00

UCPB – AGRI LOT
L A 5,8109sqm
Sitio Bitbit, Brgy. Makabaklay, Gapan City
Minimum Bid: P750,000.00

TARLAC CITY

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 3,379sqm
Barangay San Isidro, Tarlac
Minimum Bid Price. P 2,400,000.00

UCPB – AGRI LOT
L A 4,3671sqm (w/d poultry hse)
Bo San Agustin Concepcion
Minimum Bid Price P 6,908,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 230, F A 140sqm
Sta Rosa cor Clark St. Tarlac
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,044,000.00

UCPB – COMML BLDG (5-STOREY)
L A 215sqm. F A 778.11sqm
Libertad St Bo San Roque La Paz
Minimum Bid Price: P 640,000.00

UCPB – POULTRY FARM
L A 55,366sqm (5 poultry House)
Along Bo Rd. Bo.Sta, Ines West, Sta Ignecia
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,504,000.00

PAMPANGA CITY

UCPB – AGRO-INDUSTRIAL LOT
L A 72,152sqm
Brgy Sulipan Apalit, Pampanga
Minimum Bid Price: P 860,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 1,600sqm. F A 757sqm
Sto. Dominic Villa, San Fernando
Minimum Bid Price : P 8,750,000.00

UCPB – FARM HOUSE / POULTRY
L A 48,882sqm
Bo San Jose, Matulid. Mexico
Minimum Bid Price P 3,180,000.00

BAGUIO CITY

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 160sqm
Bo Re. Sec. J (Camp 7). Baguio City
Minimum Bid Price. P 380,000.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 291sqm
Richgate Square II, Camp 7, Baguio City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,135,000.00

UCPB – Subdivision Lots
L A 29,754sqm (84 Titles)
Vista Verde Heights Subd , Sitio Bunbun, Vinc. Itogon
Minimum Bid Price P 21, 410,000.00

ISABELA CITY

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 501sqm
Batista Village, Calao East, Santiago City
Minimum Bid Price. P 568,000.00

UCPB –RSDL LOT w/ Ware House
L A 6001sqm
Along Tiburcio Street, Poblacion Jones
Minimum Bid Price P 1,140,000.00

UCPB – COMML BLDG (4-Storey)
L A 188sqm, F A 578sqm
Brgy. Villasis, Santiago City
Minimum Bid Price P 6,840,000.00

UCPB – RICE MILL/ PIGGERY
L A 21,844sqm
San Dionisio Street, Diamantina, Cabatuan
Minimum Bid Price: P 23,771,000.00

UCPB – RSDL BLDG
L A 374sqm, F A 233 5sqm
Along Rizal Street, Centro Roxas, Isabela
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,880,000.00

UCPB –HOUSE & LOT
L A 487sqm, F A 180sqm
Along Escolta Street, Poblacion, Tuao
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,140,000.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 982sqm
Provincial Road, Bo. Ipil, Echague, Isabela
Minimum Bid Price P 700,000.00

UCPB – PIGGERY
L A 32,375sqm (Various)
Bo. Road, Bo Del Pilar, Alicia
Minimum Bid Price: P 22,745,000.00

UCPB – INDUSTRIAL LOT
L A 12,320sqm
Capirpiriwan, Cordon, Isabela
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,600,000.00

ROXAS CITY

UCPB – HOUSE &LOT
L A 515sqm, F A 173sqm
Punta Tabuk, Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price P 860,000.00

UCPB – COMML BLDG
L A 1,500sqm (3 STOREY)
Km 1, Bo. Lawaan, Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price. P 5,690,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE &LOT
L A 853sqm F A 201sqm
Bo. Dayao Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,060,000.00

UCPB – COMML LOT
L A 275 sqm.
Tangue – Ilaya Rd. Tangue Roxas City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,430,000.00

UCPB – AGRI - LOT
L A 109,999sqm
Bo. Agojo Capiz
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,850,000.00

ILOILO CITY

UCPB – RICE MILL
L A 48 218 sqm. (VARIOUS BLDG)
Bo Sambag Municipality of Zarraga
Minimum Bid Price P 11,200,000.00

UCPB – AGRI – LOT
L A 13,144 sqm
Bo Calnog, Poblacion Lawod, Calnog
Minimum Bid Price P 1, 560,000.00

UCPB – PENSION HOUSE
L A 704 sqm (DILAPIDATED)
Along Fuentes and Do Gulle Street, Brgy San Agustin City Proper of Iloilo
Minimum Bid Price P 6,336,000.00

UCPB – AGRI – LOT
L A 4,000 sqm (10 TITLE)
Brgy Alaguisoc, Mun of Jordan Guimaras Island
Minimum Bid Price P 1, 980.000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 963 sqm (OLD HOUSE)
Dona Francisco Village Jaro Iloilo
Minimum Bid Price P 2,190,000.00

UCPB – AGRI - LOT
L A 28,410 sqm
Along Provincial Road Guinobatan, Leganes
Minimum Bid Price. P 7,740,000.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 4,431 sqm.
Along Provincial Road, Brgy. Agutayan, Sta Barbara, Iloilo
Minimum Bid Price P 2,430,000.00

UCPB – AGRI – LOT
L A 54,431sqm.
Bo Agutayan, Sta BarBara
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,430,000.00

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 1,000 sqm.
Brgy Baldoza Lapaz
Minimum Bid Price P 850,000.00

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 5,536 sqm
Molo-Arevalo Blvd., Brgy Sto. NiÓo Sur Arevalo
Minimum Bid Price: P 4, 575,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 254sqm, F A 176sqm
Bankers Village IV Quitin Salas, Jaro
Minimum Bid Price: P 765,000.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 499sqm.
L J Ledesma Subd Jaro
Minimum Bid Price. P 750,000.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 315sqm.
Don Francisco Village, Jaro
Minimum Bid Price: P 668,900.00.

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 300sqm. F A 161sqm
Gran Plains Subd. Jaro
Minimum Bid Price. P 868,068

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 578sqm.
Fajardo Subd Jaro
Minimum Bid Price: P 635,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 1,804sqm, F A 195sqm
Guanco St Arevalo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,965,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 448sqm, F A 132.50sqm.
Fajardo St, Jaro
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,010,000.00

UCPB – RAW LAND
L A 35,141sqm
Bo. Carvazana, Calinog
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,535,000.00

UCPB – RICE MILL
L A 4,715sqm (BODEGA).
Poblacion Ilaya, Calinog
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,935,000.00

CEBU CITY

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 228 sqm, F A 211 85
St Jude Acre, Bulacao,
Minimum Bid Price. P 1, 976,718.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 2260sqm F A 876sqm.
Talisay
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,722,278.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 2,019 sqm. F A 172sqm
Lawaan 1, Talisay Cebu
Minimum Bid Price P 2,768,770.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 446sqm
Along Road Lot No 1. Espina Village
Minimum Bid Price P 4,933,743.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 1,150 sqm.
Bo. Of Sangi Lapu-lapu City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,600,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 524 sqm F A 204sqm
No 21-E Nichol's Heights Subdivision Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price P 2,342,555.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 250 sqm
Southe hills Subd Bo Tisa
Minimum Bid Price. P 1 120 000.00

UCPB – RAW LAND
L A 37,940sqm
Brgy Busay
Minimum Bid Price: P 26,187,700.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 201 sqm
Espina Village, Edma Subd
Minimum Bid Price P 1,406,556.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 687sqm, F A 118 sqm
Bo Lipata Minglanilla
Minimum Bid Price P 1,370.000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 186sqm (unfinished home)
Lingkakang Subd. Horshoes Hills Subd
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,187,200.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 300sqm, F A 292sqm
Monterroyo Compd. Bamilad Mandaue
Minimum Bid Price: P 2,010,000.00

DAVAO CITY

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 403sqm
Sasalit St. Nova Tierra Subd. Bo. Pampanga
Minimum Bid Price P945,000.00

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 768sqm
Palm Drive, De Jesus Subd Bajada
Minimum Bid Price. P1,920,000.00

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 190sqm
Along the Northwestern Side Of An Unnamed Road
Minimum Bid Price. P189,453.50

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 2,570sqm (10 Title)
Along Maa Road Bgry Maa
Minimum Bid Price P 6,100,000.00

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 285sqm
Airport Road Sasa, Davao City
Minimum Bid Price P 712,500.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 283sqm
Along the North Western Side of an Unnamed Road
Minimum Bid Price: P 282,186.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 654sqm
Along Indigo Bunting Street, Belisario Heights Lanang
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,520,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 316sqm, F A 185sqm
Jade Street , Diamond Village II,
Lanang Davao
Minimum Bid Price P 2,110,000.00

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 500sqm
Purok Waling- waling (Macasero),
Tagum Davao
Minimum Bid Price: P 350,000.00

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 179sqm
Luningning St. Dona Paz Subd Sasa
Minimum Bid Price: P 430,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 300sqm, F A 235sqm
Everly Hills Subd Brgy 5-A, Bankerohan Davao City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,830,000.00

UCPB – COMML LOT
L A 195sqm
Quimpo Blvd , Poblacion, Davao City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,950,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 488sqm, F A 348sqm
Royal Pines Subd Shrine Hills Matina Davao
Minimum Bid Price: P 4,535,000.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 3578sqm
Km 7 Bo Talomo, Talomo
Minimum Bid Price. P 2,118,200.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 1043sqm. (5 titles)
Diamond Village, Lanay Davao
Minimum Bid Price. P 850,647.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 863sqm, F A 219sqm
Avenida Santos Ave Nova Tierra, Lanang
Minimum Bid Price: P 3,020,000.00

UCPB – COMML LOT
L A 7977sqm
C P Laurel Ave. san Roque Davao
Minimum Bid Price: P 183,389,999

BACOLOD CITY

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 175 sqm
Brgy Estefania, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price. P 290,000.00

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 1400sqm
Lot 10 & 11 Garden Ville Subd
Brgy Tangub, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price: P 1,330,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 997 sqm F A 273sqm
Kametal Drive, Brgy Bata, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,130,000.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 921 sqm Ware house
Ramylu Village Brgy Tangub, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price. P 1,160,000.00

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 506 sqm
Banahaw St Brgy Villamonte, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price. P 1,150,000.00

UCPB –RSDL LOT
L A 1200sqm
Rosano Heights Subd , Taculing, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price: P 960,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 1785sqm
Heights Subd Barangay Taculing, Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price P 3,010,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 558sqm, F A 185sqm
(Circumferencial Rd) & Ist Road , Puentebella Bacolod City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,040,000.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 438 sqm
Gardenville Subd , Brgy Tangub,
Minimum Bid Price P 330,000.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 780 sqm, F A 325sqm
Along RHO & PHI Street, Greensville Subd
Minimum Bid Price P 2,530,000.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 2170sqm (2 STOREY)
Corner A Luna & Plandel Street, Silay City
Minimum Bid Price. P 2,610,000.00

UCPB – RSDL LOT
L A 1000sqm
Marapara Hts Bo Bata
Minimum Bid Price P 1,500,000.00

UCPB – SCHOOL
L A 1,372sqm, F A 414.39 sqm
La Paz St La Carlota City
Minimum Bid Price P 1,090,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 362 sqm, F A 171sqm
Malabo St Bo Villamonte
Minimum Bid Price P 1,470,000.00

UCPB – HOUSE & LOT
L A 359 sqm. F A 192sqm
Jesusa Hts Subd Bo Estefania
Minimum Bid Price P 1,230,000.00

QUEZON

UCPB 609 – RSDL LOT
L A 8,477sqm
Along Diversion Road Bo. of Isabang Municipality of Tayabas
Minimum Bid Price. P 12 650,000.00

UCPB 610- HOUSE & LOT
L A 360sqm, F A 241sqm
No.19 Bolivia St Betterliving Subdivision, Brgy Isabbang Lucena
Minimum Bid Price P 1,600,000.00

UCPB 611– RSDL / WARE HOUSE
L A 224sqm
Along Enriquez St. Poblacion Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price P 3,110,000.00

UCPB 612 – RSDL / WARE HOUSE
L A 240 sqm, F A 483 35sqm
Purok Matahimik Cotta Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price. P 2,250,000.00

UCPB 613 – COMML LOT w/ Structure
L A 1 508 sqm
Along National Road, Brgy Iyam Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price P 5,265,000.00

UCPB 614 – RSDL LOT
L A 180sqm
San Isidro Subd Brgy Gulang-gulang Lucena City
Minimum Bid Price. P 470,793.37

UCPB 615 – COMML BLDG
L A 75sqm, F A 134 64sqm
Along enriquez St Bo 4
Minimum Bid Price. P 1,895,000.00

BATANGAS CITY

UCPB 602 - GOLF RSDL LOT
L A 1,056sqm
Mt Malarayat Estate, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 3,345,918.65

UCPB 603 – POULTRY, PIGGERY
L A 37,117sqm. (w/d house)
Along National Road, Brgy Tangob, Padre Garcia
Minimum Bid Price P 6,631,2000.00

UCPB 604 –RSDL LOT
L A 444sqm
Palmridge Pointe Batangas
Minimum Bid Price. P 3,889,400.05

UCPB 605 – RSDL LOT
L A 120sqm
Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 178,020.56

UCPB 606 –RSDL LOT
L A 4741, F A 330 81sqm
Along National Road, Bo Santiago
Minimum Bid Price P 4,219,000.00

UCPB 607 –RSDL LOT
L A 764sqm
Along Lodlod Road, Purok 6 , Batangas
Minimum Bid Price. P 483,131.35

UCPB 608 – HOUSE & LOT
L A 886sqm (BUNGALOW)
Along Barangay Road, Tilambo, Taysan
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Penthouse and other pickings

TO THOSE who want to literally live at the top, Bánco de Oro has placed on the block the two upper penthouse units of Essensa at The Fort.

Even better, the bank has slashed the price of the two upper penthouse units of the Pacific Plaza condominium along Ayala from the P50-million pre-1997 asking price to P38 million each. Each of Pacific Plaza penthouses has a floor area of 540 square meters, spread out in two levels, loft style.

Both had remained unfinished since the condo's construction two decades ago, after no one from the Sys, who also happen to own BDO, wanted to move and live there, despite paying good money for what had in the '80s and early '90s been the most desirable condo address in the country.

For the two Essensa penthouses, BDO is asking P42.41 million for each of the 511-sq.m. units. Both are new, never occupied, and ready to be moved into.

BDO has also one unit left at the Pacific Plaza Towers at The Fort, after having recently sold three units in the same complex. Unlike the penthouses, the PPT unit, on the 28th floor, is smaller, at 299 sq.m. Asking price: P21.5 million.

According to the grapevine, the Pacific Plaza Towers and Essensa units had been acquired by BDO from the respective developers through *dacion en pago*.

For those who are a bit tight on cash, PSBank is selling the two upper penthouses of Le Triomphe in Salcedo Village. The thrift bank is trying to unload these along with other properties.

One penthouse unit, at 413.9 sq.m., has an P18.63 million tag; the other one, slightly bigger at 420.9 sq.m., costs P19 million even. If we are not mistaken, Rep. Gilbert and Nikki Teodoro used to live in one of them.

Those who are afraid of heights may consider 5 Intsia Road in South Forbes, the former spread of BLTB heiress Dolores Potenciano.

Allied Bank has been trying to sell the 1,915-sq.m. property with a 40-meter long swimming pool since 2001, but there had been no takers so far.

It is not clear how much the Lucio Tan bank is asking for the Potenciano house, which, incidentally, is right in front of Rep. Mark Jimenez's, whose property was itself on the market for a while until unexpectedly withdrawn.

For those who prefer the convenience of Urdaneta Village, Equitable PCIBank is still trying to unload the corner, 1,069-sq.m. former property of accountant Nora Bitong at 20 Cabildo St. for P34.2 million.

Money-wise Mike

FOR THE second time in three years, El Shaddai guru Mariano Velarde has suffered a rebuke from the Supreme Court for his contract-dodging ways.

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

The high court last week ordered Bro. Mike to pay a P1-million loan he contracted way back in 1983 from the now shuttered Permanent Savings and Loan Bank.

As well, the court also ordered Bro. Mike to make good to the bank liquidator, the state-owned Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., the 25-percent yearly interest and 24-percent yearly penalty he had committed to in the loan document.

The preacher, a former real estate salesman, claimed that although he signed the promissory note, someone else, he did not say whom, received the money.

Bro. Mike had earlier won the case at the Manila Regional Trial Court and Court of Appeals (through Justices Roberto Barrios, Godardo Jacinto and Mercedes Gozo-Dadole), which both had agreed with his theory that PDIC no longer had the right to collect since it filed the collection suit in 1994, or past the 10-year prescription period.

But the Supreme Court, through ponente Justice Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, said the lower courts both erred since the prescriptive period had been "interrupted" when PDIC sent collection letters to Bro. Mike in 1988 and 1994, demands which Bro. Mike ignored.

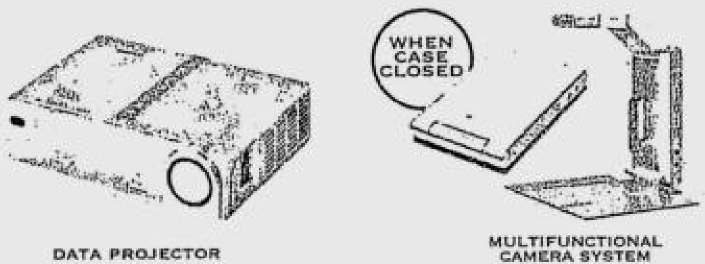
In 2001, Bro. Mike and his wife Avelina were also rebuffed by the SC when they sued to force the sale of a Dasmarinas Village house on which the couple had already given an P800,000 down payment in 1986.

The owner of 1918 Kamias St., David Raymundo, rescinded the sale after the Velardes failed to assume the balance of the mortgage payments from Bank of the Philippine Islands, after BPI rejected the Velarde application despite the couple already having paid three monthly mortgage payments in behalf of Raymundo.

Instead of outright paying the P1.8-million balance direct to Raymundo, the Velardes wanted to first impose three new additional conditions on the vendor, an attempt to novate the contract to which the seller rejected and, consequently, the Velardes could not impose, the Supreme Court ruled.

Heard through the grapevine

THE SAUDI embassy has committed $1 million to help fund the first Muslim cemetery in Metro Manila, to be located somewhere in the outer hills of Antipolo. *(Email: cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com)*



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CKP
CONSULTANCY SERVICES

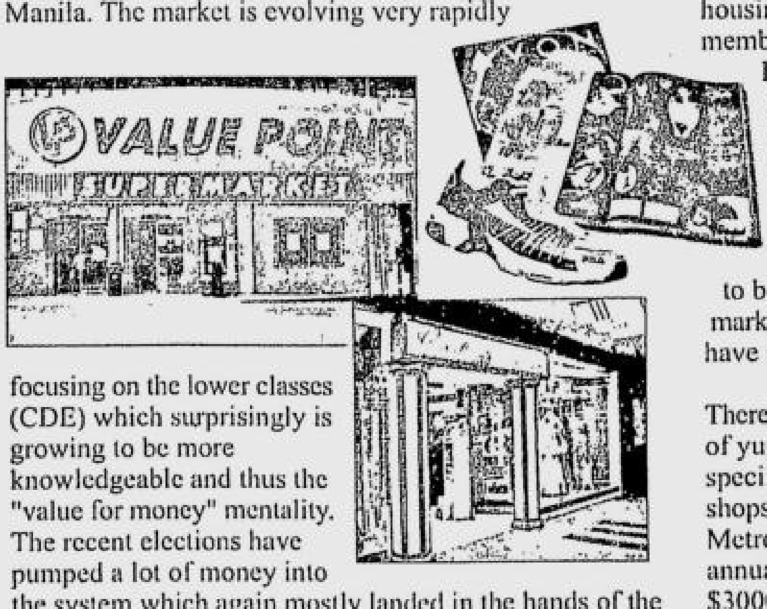
A FRESH PERSPECTIVE

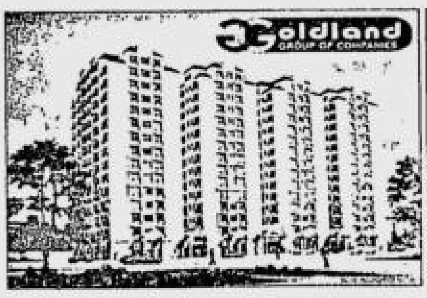
BANKING AND THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW PHILIPPINE MARKETPLACE

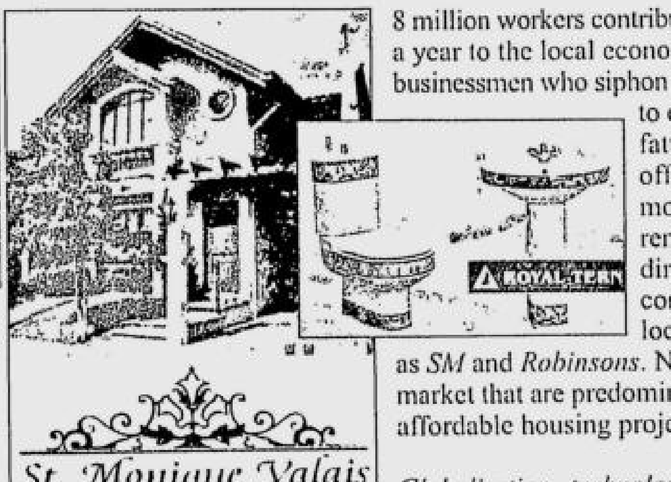
Globalization, technology, and the mall culture all contribute to the development of this new market.

Traditional way of banking and doing business in general, which relies predominantly on the personal relationships of the older generation, will slowly give way to a more objective way of doing business depending more on the project viability and not merely on personal ties. More of the younger generation entrepreneurs now do business with banks based on the attractiveness of its services and not solely because of the personal connections of their elders. Many of the younger businessmen in fact now do business over the Internet in ways such as scouting for buyers or sellers of various products.

Contrary to the general perception of the "bigger" businessmen, there is a lot of economic activity going on within the confines of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) not only within but also outside Metro Manila. The market is evolving very rapidly focusing on the lower classes (CDE) which surprisingly is growing to be more knowledgeable and thus the "value for money" mentality. The recent elections have pumped a lot of money into the system which again mostly landed in the hands of the masses. Whereas the headline growth may not be as spectacular vis-a-vis our neighboring countries (although the latest growth figures have been the highest since President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took over!), there is definitely a surge in economic activity as attested by the remarkable growth in agriculture, construction, and services which now contribute 40% to the country's total output.







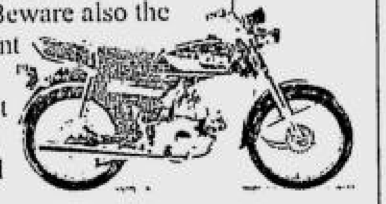
As we anticipated, primary beneficiaries would be providers of products and services that cater to this growing mass market such as cellular phones and prepaid cards, basic necessities like LPG, affordable housing specifically for Pag-Ibig members, garments with reasonable price and quality, etc. Even direct marketing outfits like *Avon* and *Sara Lee* (not to mention the newer players like *First Quadrant*) have been experiencing huge sales growth which primarily targets this market. The ones that are complaining of "poor business conditions" ironically are the BIG players who have failed or refused to adapt to the changing market conditions. One has to be flexible and creative in order to adjust to the new marketing arena which ironically again is where the SMEs have an edge.

There is also an emerging young market segment composed of yuppies belonging mostly to the outsourcing industry, specifically the call centers. The proliferation of coffee shops and franchise fastfood joints in the Metropolis attests to this. The minimum annual income of this sector is around $3000 (P180,000) which in the Philippine setting is enough to shift from basic necessities to discretionary spending. This sector might in fact form the base of an emerging "mass middle class."

NORDSTROM RACK
SM

In spite of the Iraq crisis, there is still a vibrant and growing OFW market estimated at 8 million workers contributing close to $8 billion a year to the local economy. Unlike the big businessmen who siphon out their local earnings to other countries thereby fattening the pockets of offshore private bankers, most of the OFW remittances are channeled directly to domestic consumption benefiting local establishments such as *SM* and *Robinsons*. Notably, it is also this market that are predominant buyers of the local affordable housing projects.

Globalization, technology, and the *mall culture* all contribute to the development of a new market. The challenge to business entrepreneurs is to be resourceful and become more creative in their marketing strategies (wherein *Smart* and *Globe* have been very successful so far). The "giant dinosaurs" who cannot and DO NOT want to change will soon become extinct. In their place will emerge a new group of young, technologically savvy, and highly creative entrepreneurs. *This is where* CKP *is at its best—spotting the SMEs with strong growth potentials.* Beware also the "traditional" and complacent armchair bankers for they will also soon be (if not yet) overtaken by younger and more "professional" bankers who have been trained to think and act like the new breed of entrepreneurs!



CKP Consultancy Services has been providing financial advisory services to small and medium-sized business enterprises since 1987.

CAP strikes share-for-land swap deal with 2 property firms

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

EMBATTLED pre-need firm College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) has agreed to swap shares for land owned by two firms linked to businessman Romeo Roxas.

Informed sources said in an interview that the proposed share-for-property swap involves Green Circle and Greensquare Property Corp., linked to Roxas, who is a close friend of the Sobrepeñas, the family that controls a majority stake in CAP.

Roxas is president of Greensquare Property and a director of Philippine Veterans Bank.

He was said to have participated in the search for an investor in CAP.

Sources said the two firms' pieces of property were valued at P3 billion and would be swapped for preferred shares or non-voting shares that get the first crack at company dividends.

The proposed property swap would increase CAP's trust fund assets, enabling the firm to pay plan holders once their plans mature.

Efforts to reach Roxas were unsuccessful despite repeated calls made by the INQUIRER.

Sources also told the INQUIRER that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was evaluating the memorandum of agreement between CAP and the property firms.

The shares carry an option to be converted into common, or voting, shares after a certain period, based on the initial agreement between CAP and the investor.

The final valuation of the land involved has yet to be set and approved by the SEC.

Company sources also said CAP had completed an agreement with an investment house based in Hong Kong to allow CAP to borrow $127 million.

Sources have declined to identify the investor.

In the first half of the year, CAP recorded a net loss of P1.68 billion, 398 percent more than the net loss of P330 million during the same period last year.

CAP said the losses were due to the amortization of actuarial reserve liabilities or net obligations to planholders.

CAP said the amortization of its ARL reached P1.43 billion this year.

The company expects to reduce losses by increasing its trust fund assets through the subscription by the property investor to its preferred shares.

CAP had recently paid penalties to the SEC for exceeding the P5-billion limit of securities it was earlier allowed to sell.

The company exceeded the limit by P64 million in August.

The SEC ordered CAP to stop selling securities until it had fully complied with requirements for its application to sell P1 billion worth of additional pre-heed plans.

The SEC has yet to approve the application.

Electronics firms hike sales of scrap material

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SUPPLY chain management efforts in the country are getting a boost as a group of electronics firms said its sales of scrap material jumped 16 percent through better know-how and technology.

At the same time, a group of supply management experts announced it had entered into a strategic alliance with logistics service provider BayanTrade, which links up supply buyers and sellers.

The Association of Seipi Purchasing Managers (ASPM), a group under the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Inc., said it enjoyed a 16-percent growth in sales of scrap material when it sold materials using BayanTrade's system.

APSM chair Jing Consengco said the group normally sold inventory gathered from its members at P56 million a year, but this year's sales increased by P9.1 million.

"At the end of our two-year sourcing contract, we anticipate total revenue gains of approximately $325,000, or over P18 million, as a result," he added.

He explained that BayanTrade provided support for the identification and pre-qualification of scrap buyers, trained scrap buyers on the use of its bidding facility and provided logistical support for all the bidders.

"Because of the success of our scrap disposal initiative, we have identified key commodities for future aggregated [purchases] including fuel, liquid nitrogen, general services such as HMO, insurance and uniforms," he added.

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Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,200,000	Pls Call
Alta Vista	300,000	250,000
Baguio Country Club	630,000	580,000
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls Call	10,000,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls Call	10,000,000
Sta Elena Golf	1,500,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	-	660,000
Wack Wack Golf	6,000,000	Pls Call

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CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Calatagan Golf	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	Pls Call	180,000
Canlubang Golf	-	420,000
Capitol Hills	135,000	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,500,000
Celebrity Sports	150,000	-
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	250,000/350,000*/350,000**	-
Forest Hills A/C*	160,000/250,000*	210,000*
Luisita Golf	400,000	-
Manila Polo	2,450,000	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods A	Pls Call	360,000
Makati Sports Club	210,000	185,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	180,000/260,000*	150,000
Mimosa C2/C3*	220,000	280,000*
Mimosa Golf Ind.	180,000	130,000
Mt. Malarayat A/B*	180,000	280,000*
Orchard A/B*/C**	230,000/330,000*/400,000**	180,000/Pls Call**
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	120,000/160,000*/200,000**	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	280,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	70,000	-
Sherwood A/B*	60,000	-
Spa & Lodge	650,000	530,000
The Palms Country Club	Pls Call	-
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	390,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	140,000	
Valley Golf	Pls Call	

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As of September 24, 2004

	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang Country Club "A"	please call	please call
Alabang Country Club "B"	please call	please call
Baguio Country Club	650K	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	60K	
Capitol Hills Golf Club	-	110K
Canlubang Golf Club		please call
Celebrity Sports Club	145K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "A"	270K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "B"	290K	
Eagleridge Golf Club "C"	300K	
Eastridge Golf Club "B"	please call	
Manila Golf Club - Ind	11.2M	please call
Manila Polo Club		2.4M
Manila Southwoods "A"	350K	
Manila Southwoods "B"		620K
MetroClub "A"		130K
Mt. Malarayat "C"		250K
Orchard Golf Club "A"	290K	
Orchard Golf Club "B"	please call	250K
Orchard Golf Club "C"		350K
Palm Country Club	690K all in	550K
Punta Fuego	570K	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	please call	
Riviera Golf Club "B"	150K	
Rockwell Club	280K	
Royale Tagaytay	please call	
Sta. Elena Golf Club "A"	1.5M	please call
Sta. Elena Golf Club "B"		1.5M
Subic Yacht Club-Ind	130K	
Tagaytay Higlands Golf Club	-	750K
Tagaytay Midlands		please call
Valley Golf Club	250K	
Wack Wack Golf Club	please call	please call

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GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of September 27, 2004

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,000,000	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foregner)	1,100,000	-
Baguio Country Club	500,000	650,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	70,000
Camp John Hay	-	200,000
Canlubang	400,000	550,000
Canyon Woods	-	180,000
Capitol Hills	100,000	130,000
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	1,900,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	160,000
Club Filipino	100,000	140,000
Eagleridge "A"	200,000	270,000
Eagleridge "B"	-	300,000
Eagleridge "C"		350,000
Forest Hills "A"		160,000
Forest Hills "B"		200,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	220,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	160,000	210,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	Please Call	11,800,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,600,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	2,300,000	2,500,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	400,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	370,000
Metroclub "A"	150,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	-	150,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	260,000	275,000
Mt Malarayat Gold "C"	-	300,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	160,000	200,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	250,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	350,000
Quezon City Sports Club	-	180,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	180,000
Rockwell	-	380,000
Spa & Lodge	550,000	650,000
Sta Elena "A"	1,150,000	1,525,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	200,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	800,000
Tagaytay Midlands	600,000	680,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	150,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	-	200,000
Valley Golf	220,000	250,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	6,600,000

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Management Association of the Philippines and SMART
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"Survive and Excel In Turbulent Times"
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Mr. ERRAMON ABOITIZ
EVP and COO
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Speaker:
Mr. HENRY T. CO
President
Ford Motor Company Philippines

SESSION ON "CREATING A BUILT-TO-LAST FIRM"

This session will highlight strategies on how large organizations and diversified conglomerates, both local and global, strengthen their fundamentals and refocus their core businesses in order to survive, thrive and succeed. How do their performance score cards differ from other players in the field? What are they doing differently that sets them apart from the rest? How do they do it when others in the same league fail? Finally, given the size, magnitude and broader reach of businesses in this category, how is change managed successfully in an environment where speed and innovation are becoming "Must's" rather than "nice-to-have's?"

Other Sessions:

- SURVIVE AND EXCEL IN TURBULENT TIMES
- OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND: TURBULENCE NOTWITHSTANDING
- CREATING A BUILT-TO-LAST FIRM
- BEING A 21ST CENTURY LEADER
- SESSION ON "WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS: Identify the Critical Few Objectives of the Executive Team"

Other Speakers

Dr. FRANKLIN C. ASHBY
Author of "Embracing Excellence" and the soon to be released "Back on Track"
(USA)

Mr. RICO HIZON
Broadcaster, British Broadcasting Corporation
(Singapore)

Mr. MARTIN P. LORENZO
Chair, Pancake House

Mr. ANUPAM PRAKASH
Asia Pacific Global Sourcing Leader
Hewitt Associates (India)

Mr. TONY TAN CAKTIONG
President and CEO, Jollibee Foods Corporation

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 24, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	37,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	45	45.5	44.5	45.5	8,781,100
China Banking Corp.	530	530	530	530	1,100
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	42	42.5	42	42.5	37,800
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	990,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28.5	27.5	28	224,900
Phil. Savings Bank	28	28	28	28	10,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	2,000
Security Bank Corp.	21	21.25	21	21.25	32,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	24	24	24	24	9,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	100,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1600	1610	1600	1610	6,170
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20.75	21	20.75	21	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.8	0.85	0.8	0.85	71,160,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1060	1090	1060	1090	28,960
Ipeople Inc.	1.62	1.74	1.62	1.74	311,000
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	5,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	9,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	6,550,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	300,000
Transpacific Broadcast	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1380	1420	1380	1390	128,410
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.68	0.65	0.68	5,020,000
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	89,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.75	15.5	15.75	82,300
Manila Electric Co. B	23.5	24.25	23.5	24.25	955,100
Petron Corp.	2.75	2.85	2.75	2.85	9,024,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	50,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	289,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	60,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	4.8	4.85	4.8	4.8	175,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	580,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	1,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	7,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.44	2.44	4,875,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.95	99,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	4.05	4.05	4.05	4.05	3,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	4,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	26.5	26.5	26	26	26,400
Pancake House Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	4,000
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.76	0.72	0.76	260,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	220,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57.5	57.5	13,300
San Miguel Corp. B	70.5	71	70.5	71	74,600
Universal Robina Corp.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	6,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	1,700,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	15,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.5	1,207,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.34	80,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.35	3.4	3.35	3.4	401,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.033	0.031	0.032	500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	214,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	8,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	88,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	10,200
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.115	0.1	0.115	1,300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.58	17,150,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	5,390,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.18	2.12	2.16	1,069,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.036	0.037	0.036	0.036	3,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.97	1	0.96	1	780,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	5,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	27	27.5	27	27.5	893,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	150,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	5,600,000
House of Investments Inc.	0.65	0.75	0.65	0.75	170,000
Ionics Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	30,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.88	1.86	1.86	378,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.54	1.54	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.3	1.24	1.3	12,849,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	400,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.51	0.59	0.51	0.59	123,570,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	150,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	100,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	40,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	7,640,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	1,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	380,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.065	0.065	[illegible]
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.68	0.71	0.68	0.71	[illegible]
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.58	560,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	22,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	1,290,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	733,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	11	11	11	11	200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,700
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,500
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	4,159,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	160,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	200,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.43	0.44	0.41	0.44	16,390,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.145	0.145	630,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.36	20,760,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.12	1.04	1.1	35,873,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.24	2.24	2.24	2.24	2,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.235	2,540,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.43	0.45	0.43	0.45	1,050,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2	2	2	2	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.4	10,165,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	70,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	40,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	102,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3	3	3	3	10,000
Benguet Corp. A	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	71,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.21	630,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	600,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	70,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	24,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	2,128,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.39	160,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	300,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	20,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	10,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	4,300,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	10,000

CURRENCIES

September 26, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.815062	1.000000	56.3670
Japan	Yen	0.007360	0.009030	0.5090
United Kingdom	Pound	1.463607	1.795700	101.2182
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.104514	0.128228	7.2278
Switzerland	Franc	0.646567	0.793273	44.7144
Canada	Dollar	0.637166	0.781739	44.0643
Singapore	Dollar	0.480919	0.590040	33.2588
Australia	Dollar	0.582854	0.715103	40.3082
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.162026	2.652590	149.5185
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217350	0.266667	15.0312
Brunei	Dollar	0.479505	0.588305	33.1610
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000090	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019711	0.024184	1.3632
UAE	Dirham	0.221919	0.272272	15.3472
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.226900	69.1567
Argentina	Peso	0.272824	0.334728	18.8676
Brazil	Real	0.284291	0.348797	19.6606
Denmark	Kroner	0.134443	0.164948	9.2976
India	Rupee	0.017792	0.021829	1.2304
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214496	0.263165	14.8338
Mexico	New Peso	0.071572	0.087812	4.9497
New Zealand	Dollar	0.544464	0.668003	37.6533
Norway	Kroner	0.120038	0.147275	8.3014
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013773	0.016898	0.9525
South Africa	Rand	0.127234	0.156104	8.7991
Korea	Won	0.000710	0.000871	0.0491
Sweden	Kroner	0.110810	0.135953	7.6633
Syria	Pound	0.022559	0.027678	1.5601
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024114	0.029586	1.6677
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000425	0.000522	0.0294

Stock surge seen . . .

From page B1

higher oil prices and interest rates, they added.

The benchmark composite index surged to a four-year high last week to 1,763.30, up 82 points or 4.9 percent from a week ago.

The steady climb proceeded even amid warnings from credit rating firm Fitch Rating Agency about a possible downgrade of the country's credit standing.

Fitch said the Philippines faced the risk of a credit-rating downgrade if the government failed to pass new tax measures by the end of the year to start curing its chronic fiscal deficit problem.

The Senate appeared to be willing to support three taxes to generate additional revenues—indexation of "sin" taxes or taxes levied on tobacco and liquor products, rationalization of fiscal incentives, and the proposed lateral attrition law, which is a reward system for government revenue-generating agencies.

Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc. said the market was boosted last week by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' decision not to raise interest rates.

Forecasts for Philippine economic growth were also upbeat after the Asian Development Bank (ADB) raised the country's gross domestic product growth target to 5.5 percent for 2004 from an earlier projection of 5 percent. What would drive the expected higher growth would be agriculture, industry and services. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Globe, Smart seen to overstate subscriber base

By Clarissa S. Batino

IN THE feverish race to attract subscribers, wireless phone giants Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Communications Inc. could have overstated the number of their customers by as much as 4 million, industry sources said.

The sources, some of whom are company insiders, have estimated that between 3 and 4 million subscribers just move from one network to another to take advantage of the SIM swaps.

The two giants reported a total of 26.6 million subscribers as of the first half. Subscriber growth had become the mantra of Smart and Globe to sustain their profitability that kept on increasing each year.

In the SIM swap program of the two competing giants, a representative of one carrier would offer a customer of a rival network a free subscriber identification module (SIM) card that comes with a free load of P50 in exchange for the customer's active rival SIM.

"These ghost subscribers do not end up (as) active subscribers since they just move from one network to the other," a telco official. "They only mean costs for the telcos, but they do not contribute to revenue."

Each SIM costs about US$2.50 (P140) plus P50 in free load. An activated SIM also entails costs to the network. At a cost of P200 each, the 4 million hot subscribers had already bilked the giants close to P1 billion in expenses.

An official of one of the telco firms said the number could even exceed 4 million, while one of the senior executives of a rival firm estimated the nomad subscribers at about 10 percent of the total subscriber base of more than 27 million as of the first half (including the 700,000 customers of Sun Cellular).

Globe president Gerardo Ablaza refused to speculate on the number of these fickle subscribers, although he had cautioned in August that the actual number of wireless customers could be lower than what was being reported because of the aggressive SIM swaps.

"There are no reliable statistics on this right now considering that these are prepaid subscribers," he said.

Globe reported that it had 10.5 million subscribers as of end-June. But in the first quarter, it weeded out close to 2 million subscribers.

Smart, for its part, said it did not include in its 16.1-million headcount as of the first half about a million subscribers whom it suspected of connecting only for the P50 load.

Smart spokesperson Ramon Isberto clarified that the company did not "churn" 1 million subscribers because these were not counted to begin with.

"Churning means you counted them, but took them out when found inactive," Isberto said. "Based on a new process we adopted when we reported the first half numbers, if a subscriber doesn't top up in a month, then we don't count them as subscribers."

He said this was meant to exclude from the count people who just take advantage of the SIM swap but who really do not stay with the network.

Ronald Solis, chair of the National Telecommunications Commission said the NTC would conduct a study on these so-called ghost or hot subscribers.

Smart said it continued to follow the revised computation "to minimize possible distortions arising from the SIM swap."

Ablaza said that at the rate subscribers go, 5 out of 10 Filipinos would become mobile subscribers by next year. As of the first half, about 36 percent of the population are wireless customers.

NTC presses telcos to list shares in stock market

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has ordered Smart Communications Inc. and Bell Telecommunications Phils. Inc. to comply with the requirements of the law and list their shares at the stock market.

In separate letters to Smart president Napoleon Nazareno and BellTel president Edgardo Reyes, NTC chair Ronald Solis directed the two companies to explain why they have not complied with the requirements of the franchise as well as the Telecommunications Act.

Solis said the licenses and authorization granted to the phone companies required them to comply with all laws and regulations.

The Telecommunications Act required phone companies to offer 30 percent of their shares to the public within 5 years from start of operations. Smart and BellTel's franchises also carried a similar provision, according to Solis.

Smart, a wholly owned subsidiary of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., was required by its franchise to sell at least 30 percent of its shares to the public not later than August 2004.

The cash-rich mobile phone company that holds more than half of the market told the NTC that the laws were merely "directory" and embodied the intent of Congress to spread out the ownership of public utilities.

"Smart reiterates its position that there has been no violation of its franchise," according to the head of its legal and carrier business Rogelio Quevedo. "Smart also confirms that it shall act in accordance with its commitment to the law and to the requirements of Congress."

BellTel, a telecom data provider, had not replied to the Commission, according to the NTC.

Solis knew Smart brought the matter to Congress and acknowledged that the Commission would accept whatever the lawmakers would decide.

"They brought the matter up to Congress," said the NTC chair. "I think Smart is seeking exemption. This is a matter that really falls within the jurisdiction of Congress because it is the one that issued the franchise."

But Smart, in its letter to the NTC, made no mention of directly seeking an exemption. Instead, it pointed to a bill filed by Senator Ralph Recto that sought an amendment to Section 21 of the Telecommunications Act.

The Recto bill said telcos owned two-thirds directly or indirectly by a listed company need not go through an initial public offering.

"The approval of this bill will directly affect Smart because at least 2/3 of its outstanding voting stock is owned by PLDT, a listed company," said Quevedo.

Smart's lawyer also pointed to an opinion of the justice department on the listing of oil companies under the Oil Deregulation Act. Oil firms had cited poor market conditions, and the justice department said that the listing provision of the law was "merely directory."

"We are willing to explore all other options by which we could fulfill the requirements of the franchise without going IPO," said Smart president Napoleon Nazareno.

At the same time, he insisted that Smart would not do a backdoor listing through affiliate firm Pilipino Telephone Corp.

Nazareno said that PLDT needed full access to Smart's profitability so the parent firm could reduce its debt. PLDT is scheduled to pare down its debt to $1.5 billion by the end of next year from about $2 billion by the end of 2004.

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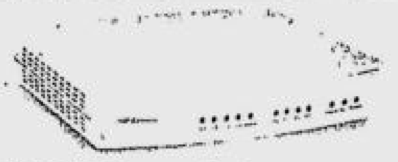

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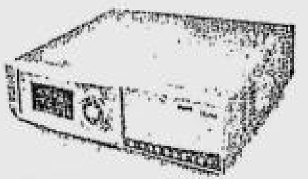

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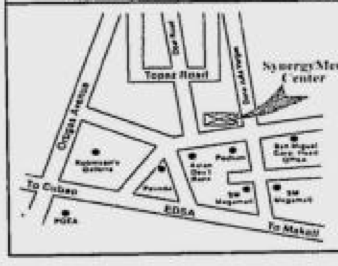

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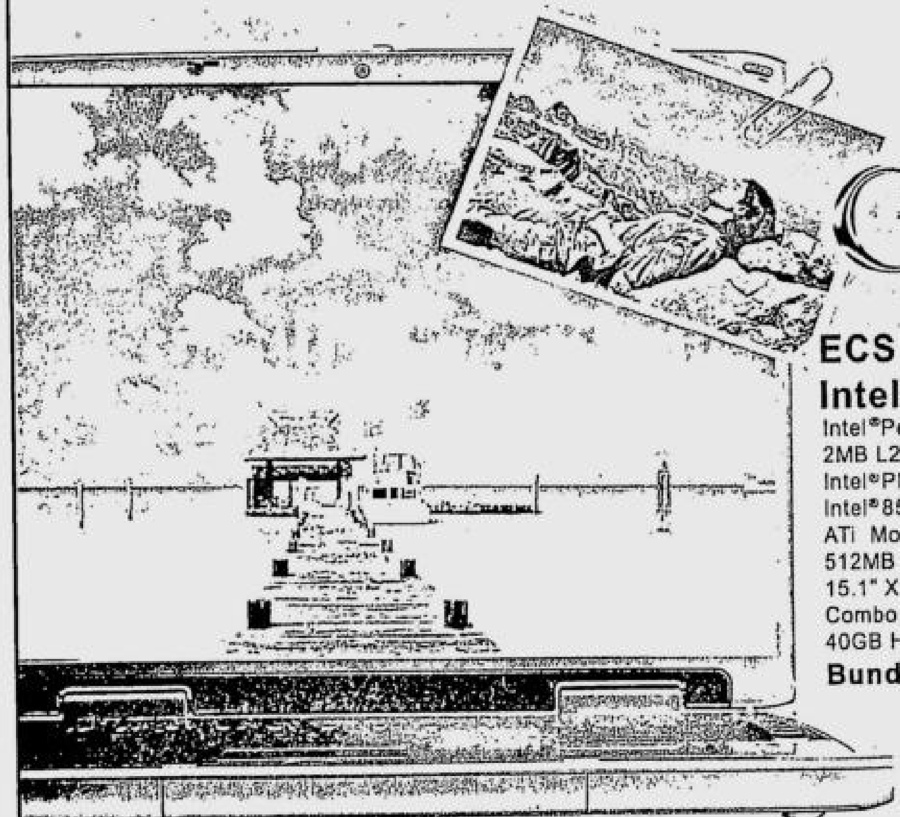

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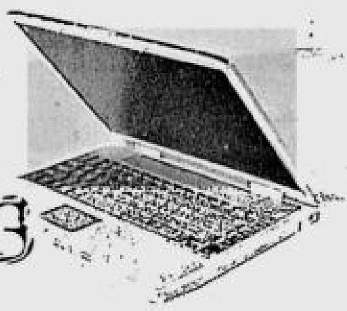

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P300-M EXPANSION

Tin can plant opens

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A world-class tin can manufacturing plant with food-grade coating capabilities opened here on Friday.

The opening of the P500-million plant was expected not only to boost the local economy but also to generate more employment opportunities here.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo was supposed to lead the formal opening ceremonies but he did not arrive.

Lucio Ong, chief executive officer of Genpack Corp., said the new plant was capable of producing up to 800 metric tons of various can sizes per month.

Ong said the factory was also capable of producing easy-open cans, similar to the ones used in canned drinks.

He said the presence of three other can manufacturing plants here did not deter project proponents from investing because of the increasing demand for tin can packaging, particularly from the fishing industry.

There are also many food companies, including fruit processors, located in the city.

Ong said the comapany was already planning a P300-million expansion project as demand is projected to increase in the coming days. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

RP carriers get 14 additional flight entitlements from Japan

By Clarissa S. Batino

JAPAN has given the Philippines 14 additional flight entitlements and opened Nagoya airport to Philippine carriers.

These, government officials said, were the result of the bilateral air rights negotiation between the Philippines and Japan in Tokyo two weeks ago.

This will allow other local carriers, including Gokongwei-owned Cebu Pacific, to fly to Japan. Philippine Airlines is the only local carrier that currently flies to Japan.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the additional entitlements would bring to 61 the coefficients given by Japan to Philippine carriers.

Japan is an important destination to local airlines as it is the second largest source of foreign arrivals for the country after the United States.

During the bilateral talks, the Philippine air panel had asked for 28 additional coefficients to allow a separate allocation for cargo carriers.

Only 14 additional entitlements were given but government officials said this was already a big improvement considering the reluctance of the Japanese government to extend additional concessions. In 2002, Japan gave only four additional coefficients to the Philippines.

MENDOZA

One coefficient is equivalent to one flight using a 200-seater aircraft. Japan determines aviation entitlements through coefficients, which are based on aircraft size.

The Civil Aeronautics Board said Philippine carriers must start making preparations for flights to Japan, especially with the opening of Nagoya.

The CAB said the additional entitlements could be used by both passenger and cargo carriers. Lucio Tan's Pacific East Asia Cargo and another small carrier, Asia Overnight, would like to carry freights to and from Japan.

"By this time, carriers should be drafting their plan so that they will be prepared for the opening of the Nagoya airport in February," according to CAB planning and research head Porvenir Porciuncula.

Sources said PAL wanted to fly to cargo-rich Nagoya airport, which used to be off-limits to most foreign carriers. Cebu Pacific had been wanting to fly to Japan and said it needed only two coefficients initially to mount flights twice a week.

The Gokongwei airline said it could "offer lower fare and safe on-time service" like what it had been selling to passengers flying to South Korea and Hong Kong.

PAL flies weekly to Osaka, Tokyo, Fukuoka and Okinawa in Japan.

In 2001, about 260,000 Japanese came to the country and 290,000 in 2000. This market also include some 170,000 overseas Filipino workers.

The Philippines has been courting Japan to agree to an open skies regime that would lift restrictions on capacity entitlement and frequency of passenger, cargo and chartered flights. Japan, however, refused to give in as it was also protecting its aviation industry.

A CAB official last year said that existing Japan frequencies were given to PAL to strengthen the country's hold in an important destination like Japan following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

RESPONSE TO THE OPEN LETTER OF MR. ANTONIO CALIPJO GO PUBLISHED IN THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER DATED SEPTEMBER 20, 2004

FOR: HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, THE PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES; HON. FLORENCIO ABAD, SECRETARY OF EDUCATION; THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF THE PHILIPPINES; THE WORLD BANK; THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK; HON. ROLANDO ANDAYA JR.; AND THE FILIPINO PEOPLE.

The open letter on the alleged "invisible crime" is nothing more than a perverted and vicious assault upon the honor and integrity of the authors, the publisher and the government officers concerned, particularly the Department of Education. As will be shown hereunder, the supposed errors indicated on the book under question are manufactured and fabricated by Mr. Go to distort and destroy the thought and concept as presented in the book. Our reply to the points/items raised by Mr. Go are as follows:

"Daffy-nitions" of Mr. Go	Our Response
1. Gobi Desert (mabuhanging disyerto)	The term mabuhanging disyerto is used as a **description** of the Gobi Desert.
2. Whaling (pangingisda ng balyena)	No such term exists in the book.
3. Ziggurat (tore ng Sumerian na tulad ng skyscraper ay binubuo ng ilang palapag)	Skyscraper is not a definition but a **description** of ziggurat to enable the readers to compare and visualize the height of the structure.
4. warlord (may lupa)	Mr. Go misinterpreted this term. The term war lords in the textbook is actually a description of the phrase makapangyarihang may lupa.
5. rice ball (bigas na hugis bola)	Mr. Go misinterpreted the term rice ball which is actually rice shaped into a ball used in the Indian ritual.
6. napapayungang samahan (umbrella organizations) basket-weaving	These are not found in the textbook.
7. sitar (may kwerdas na gawa sa teakwood)	Mr. Go misquoted the term. The actual text is: "Pinakapopular na instrumento ang sitar na gawa sa pinatuyong kalabasa at may kwerdas na gawa sa teakwood."
8. Sumerians (nagsusunggaban tulad ng mga toro)	The phrase "sila ay nagsusunggaban tulad ng mga toro" does not describe the Sumerians but wrestling as a sport, as translated from the description in the Gilgamesh, an ancient Sumerian epic.
9. About Islam "Nagsimula ang Islam nang si Muhammad ay nagkaroon ng pagkakataong magnilay dahil sa pagkakaroon ng asawang mayaman bagaman may edad sa kanya na 15 taon. Maraming kaisipang Islam ang mula sa Judaismo at Kristiyanismo, sa Matandang Tipan, sa Birhen at kay San Miguel. Pinutol ni Muhammad ang ugnayan sa Hinduismo at Kristiyanismo, ginawang direksyon ng pagdarasal sa Mecca sa halip na Herusalem at pinahintulutan ang paglalakbay sa Kaaba na hugis kubo at sa loob ay nakatayo ang batong itim na galing kay Muhammad. Ang mosque ng mga Muslim ay lubhang maraming dekorasyon at marami sa mga ito ang dinisenyo ng mga arkitektong Kristyano.	These paragraphs as quoted by Mr. Go do not appear in the textbook. Mr. Go fragmented the phrases to make them appear erroneous.The actual text on Islam was based on Encyclopedia Britannica 1988 edition: p. 914: Prophecy: Prophets are men specially elected by God to be his messengers. Prophethood is indivisible, and the Qur'an requires recognition of all prophets as such without discrimination. Yet they are not all equal, some of them being particularly outstanding in qualities of steadfastness, and patience under trial. Abraham, Noah, Moses and Jesus were such great prophets. As vindication of the truth of their mission, God often vests them with miracles: Abraham was saved from fire, Noah from the deluge, and Moses from the Pharaoh. Not only was Jesus born from the Virgin Mary, but God also saved him from crucifixion at the hands of the Jews. The conviction that God's messengers are ultimately vindicated and saved is an integral part of the Qur'anic doctrine.
10. Jews Ang mga Hudyo ay palaging inihihiwalay dahil sa kanilang tradisyon tulad ng pagpatay ng mga Aleman. Ang Torah na binubuo ng unang 5 aklat ng Lumang Tipan ay naglalaman ng mga kaisipan tungkol sa pag-ibig at paggalang sa kababaihan.	Mr. Go deleted the last part of the sentence to make it appear wrong. The actual text is: Maraming pinagdaanang hirap ang mga Hudyo dahil sa kanilang paniniwala. Sinakop sila ng mga Romano noong A.D. 70 subalit sila ay nag-alsa. Dahil dito marami ang ipinatapon sa iba't ibang bahagi ng daigdig. Sila ay palaging inihihiwalay dahil sa kanilang paniniwala at tradisyon tulad ng pagpatay ng mga Aleman sa kung ilang milyong Hudyo noong Ikalawang Digmaang Pandaigdig. Ang pagpatay at pagpaparusa sa mga Hudyo ay hindi nakapigil sa kanilang pag-unlad at pagkalat sa daigdig.
11. China Itinatag ni Sun Yat-sen ang Partido Komunista ng Tsina. Mahilig ang mga Tsino sa opyo. Ang mga babaing Tsino ay pinagsusuot ng sapatos na bakal, mga pangahas at karaniwang matatagpuan sa mga mumurahing apartments. May pinakamalaking deposito ng loess ang Tsina. Tanging ang timog na bahagi lamang ng Tsina ang maraming tao. Ang Gintong Aral ni Confucius ay nakasaad sa negatibong pangungusap. Maraming makikitang pagoda sa Luneta. Nasakop ni Mao Tse-tung ang Tsina at ginawa itong may pinakamaraming tao sa lahat ng komunistang bansa. Ang Great Wall of China ay 170 milya ang haba.	Mr. Go lumped up sentences and phrases from nine (9) pages of the textbook to make them appear erroneous and ridiculous. The actual text on opium was based on Encyclopedia Britannica 1988 edition: p. 552: Opium Trade. .... Opium addiction increased, and opium importations grew rapidly. By 1729, it had become such a problem that the Yung-cheng emperor (1723-35) prohibited the sale and smoking of opium. This failed to hamper the trade, and in 1796 the Chia-ch'ing emperor outlawed opium importation and cultivation. In spite of such decrees, however, the opium trade continued to flourish. The amount of opium imported into China increased from around 200 chests a year in 1729 to about 1,000 in 1767 and to around 10,000 a year between 1820 and 1830. By 1838, it had grown to some 40,000 chests, and the balance of payments for the first time began to run against China and in favor of Britain, which previously had to export gold and silver to buy Chinese products.

The foregoing shows that the Government Procurement Law (RA 9184) has not been violated as erroneously claimed by Mr. Go considering that the alleged errors cited are misquotes, taken out of context, alterations, and wicked interpretations of the terms used in the textbook.

He should not confuse the minds of the public to insist on his own unwarranted, erroneous, misleading interpretation of the textbook.

RES EPSA LOQUITOR.

Quezon City
September 24, 2004

TEOFISTA L. VIVAR, ED.D
EVELINA M. VILORIA, ED.D
RUTH L. FUENTES

TOYOTA Motor Corp. of Japan honorary chair Shoichiro Toyoda, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Finance Secretary Juanita Amatong lead the recent inauguration of GT Tower International in Makati City.

ERC to improve subsidy structure to help the poor

By Abigail L. Ho

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission is now conducting a review of the existing "lifeline rate" subsidy structure for customers with low monthly electricity consumption, in a bid improve the system.

"The commission recognizes the far-reaching implications and the grave impact of the fiscal crisis on the consumers, especially the poorest of the poor," ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano Jr. said in a statement Friday.

Under Section 73 of Republic Act No. 9136 or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), lifeline rates are extended to low-income electricity end-users as most of them are not capable of paying the full cost of power.

This law-mandated subsidy mechanism aims to cushion the impact of any electricity price hikes on the consumers.

As a result of this Epira provision, residential customers of various power distributors falling under the low-consumption categories enjoy discounts ranging from 10 percent to 50 percent.

Lifeline rate customers of the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co., for example, are given monthly bill markdowns of between 20 percent and 50 percent, depending on how much electricity they consume each month.

Meralco clients using less than 51 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month are afforded a 50-percent discount on their monthly bills.

Those using 51-70 kWh of electricity enjoy a 35-percent discount, while those consuming 71-100 kWh of electricity get a 20-percent discount.

These rates, according to the Epira, will be in effect for 10 years unless extended.

"The ERC hopes that the review of the structure of the lifeline rate will provide a scheme that will better target the intended beneficiaries of the lifeline rate," Albano said.

He added that the regulatory body would continue monitoring the lifeline rate structure so that it could better benefit marginalized end-users.

Power consumers had been subjected to several electricity rate increases these past months, mainly as a result of pass-through charges, particularly the generation rate adjustment mechanism (GRAM) that distribution utilities used to reflect fluctuations in the cost of power sourced from the National Power Corp. and independent power producers.

Meralco implemented per-kWh increases of 13.27 centavos and 17.37 centavos in June and September, respectively, as a result of its second and third approved GRAM applications.

The ERC also recently granted Napocor an average nationwide generation rate increase of 98 centavos per kWh, which took effect Sept. 26.

Napocor's rates went up by P1.23 per kWh in Luzon, 22.02 centavos per kWh in Visayas and 26.65 centavos in Mindanao.

For Meralco customers, the net effect of the Napocor generation rate hike should be at only around 50 percent of the rate increase for the Luzon grid as the Lopez-led firm sourced only half of its supply requirements from the state firm.

BSP urged to make discount facility easier for SMEs

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE CHAMBER of Thrift Banks has appealed to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to make its rediscounting facility more affordable to small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by scrapping a plan to shift to market-based interest rates.

During the chamber's membership meeting last week, CTB president Tomas Clemente reported that they had submitted a proposal seeking to maintain the interest rate on the BSP rediscount facility at the original pricing formula of 91-day Treasury bill rate less one percent.

An earlier circular requires the BSP to shift to a market-based interest rate formula on Oct. 4. The BSP deferred the implementation of this formula for the last two years in response to the appeal of the banking sector, particularly the CTB.

Now that the two-year deferment is expiring, the CTB is asking the BSP to consider the complete abolition of the market-based interest rate provision contained in Circular 354 of 2002.

"SMEs are a priority sector as declared by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her 10-point agenda," Clemente said in a letter to BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes. "Thus, the preferential rates will provide them with much needed support."

The rediscounting facility is a relending window offered by the BSP to banks.

"SMEs are generally hard-pressed to get prime rates as these are only being given and enjoyed by big and established firms," Clemente said. "The BSP's rediscount window will provide them with the means to access lower cost loans."

The CTB chief said the preferential rate would significantly help the SMEs to become more competitive and create more jobs for the populace.

Clemente said banks that were lending to SMEs faced higher credit risk and could incur greater overhead costs in servicing small ticket, high volume loans.

"Thus, the rate differential of one percent for SME rediscounted loans will spell the difference in attracting more banks to lend to the SMEs," Clemente said. "With more banks involved in SME lending, rural development will be accelerated as the thrift and rural banks are the primary source of funds in the countryside."

Meanwhile, Clemente reported that the BSP had agreed to allow thrift banks to remit only 80 percent of collections from rediscounted promissory notes provided all loans were in current status.

The group told the BSP that the imposition of a 100-percent remittance was a major concern of thrift banks availing of the rediscounting facility.

He also said the BSP was now preparing guidelines allowing the establishment of new banks lifting the moratorium on branching provided the banks were SME-oriented.

Kia hopes to revive car assembly plant in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SOUTH Korean car maker Kia Motors Corp. is looking at reviving its Philippine vehicle assembly operations in answer to the government's call for investments in small cars.

Sources said Kia, through its local partner Columbian Autocar Corp. (CAC), would be introducing its Picanto hatchback model, which would come in 1.1-liter and 1-liter variants.

Amid concerns of rising fuel prices last June, Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima urged vehicle makers to bring in to the country small cars with less than a liter of engine displacement to lessen the country's fuel consumption and fuel import bill.

Over the weekend, sources said CAC would make available an initial batch of 70 1.1-liter Picanto units at about P320,000 each.

Recommended for first-time car buyers, Picanto has earned a following in Europe, where it is being sold in at least 13 countries.

Consumer test drive data from Europe show that the 1.1-liter Picanto could go up to 23 kilometers to the liter, while the 1-liter variant could go up to 24 km a liter.

CAC used to assemble completely knocked down units of the Kia Pride, but turned to importing CBUs in 1995. In 1997, it stopped importing the Pride and turned to other models such as the Carnival, Sedona and Sorento.

In June, Purisima said assemblers of small vehicles were entitled to importation of knocked-down parts and components at preferential tariff of between one percent for Southeast Asian imports and 3 percent from other countries, provided these were registered under the Executive Order No. 156 or the Motor Vehicle Development Program.

On top of that, the projects can avail of incentives for pioneer status under Executive Order No. 226 or the Omnibus Investment Code provided that it costs at least $100 million, including acquisition of existing assets or facilities and exports at least 10,000 units.

FedEx signs lease deal in Clark airport

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The Federal Express Corp. has signed an agreement that would reserve at least 16 hectares of land at the aviation complex of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here for the expansion of FedEx operations in Asia.

The Clark Development Corp. and the Clark International Airport Corp., both state-owned, also signed the memorandum of agreement.

The Presidential Commission on the Central Luzon Growth Corridor said the MOA was in "preparation for the establishment of an expanded hub of FedEx in the Philippines."

The commission quoted David Cunningham, FedEx-Asia Pacific division president, as saying that the agreement was sought because of the "potential of Clark as one of the potential hub locations in Asia."

Alongside the Clark plan, FedEx has also extended its lease agreement with the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority until 2010.

FedEx has been operating at the Subic Bay Freeport since 1995. Its facility there is said to be the company's largest express hub in the Pacific region.

The features of the DMIA as well as major infrastructure projects linked to Clark provide expansion potentials for FedEx, according to CDC president Emmanuel Angeles. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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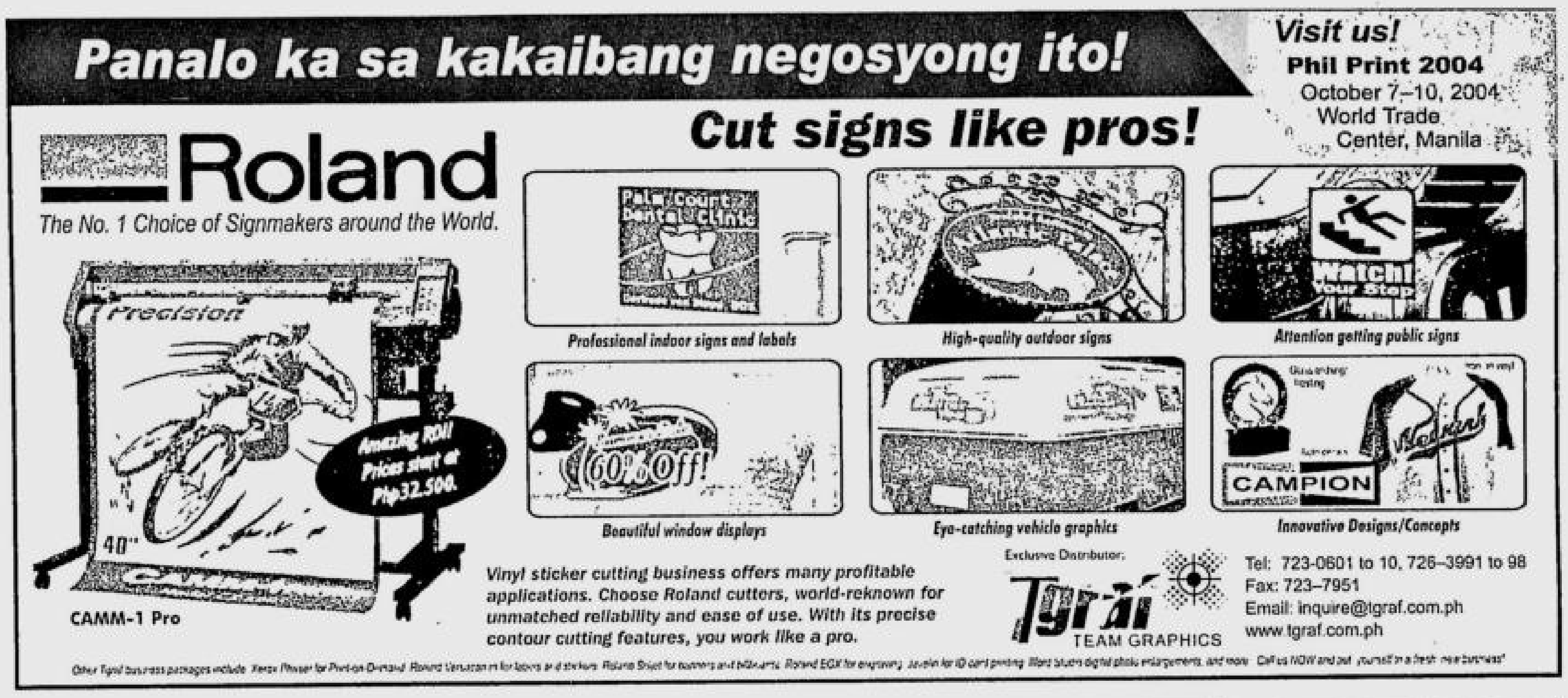
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REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF MUNICIPALITIES
CAR, REGIONS 1 AND 2
FY 2003
In Thousand Pesos

	Class	Balance Sheet			Statement of Income and Expenses									% of Net Income to Total Income
		Total Assets	Total Liabilities	Total Equity	Total Income	Rank		Total Expenses	Rank		Net Income	Rank		
						1	2		1	2		1	2	
CAR		2,195,367	503,942	1,691,424	2,252,390			1,849,626			402,764			
Abra		367,912	58,423	309,488	612,150		1	532,849		1	79,301		2	
Baay-Licuan	5	7,368	4,694	2,674	21,707	11	53	18,620	11	48	3,167	11	50	15
Bangued	2	81,078	8,452	72,626	61,126	1	4	53,795	1	4	7,331	2	17	12
Boliney	5	9,294	152	9,141	21,683	12	54	20,540	9	41	1,143	22	70	5
Bucay	5	3,650	3,177	474	22,593	10	49	22,355	6	31	238	25	74	1
Bucloc	6	10,195	1,329	8,866	13,915	26	75	10,805	26	75	3,111	12	51	22
Daguioman	6	3,158	115	3,044	16,013	24	73	15,707	19	65	305	24	73	2
Danglas	5	21,653	5,220	16,433	20,239	15	60	16,885	15	59	3,354	10	48	17
Dolores	5	10,777	1,239	9,537	19,502	17	62	15,314	22	68	4,187	7	40	21
La Paz	5	16,767	4,391	12,376	28,577	4	24	23,706	5	28	4,871	5	31	17
Lacub	5	6,792	231	6,561	28,513	5	25	28,814	3	18	(301)	26	75	(1)
Lagangilang	5	15,980	1,142	14,838	23,613	8	44	19,238	10	44	4,375	6	37	19
Lagayan	5	7,623	126	7,497	28,165	6	27	25,848	4	25	2,317	14	56	8
Langiden	5	9,120	3,710	5,410	16,755	20	69	15,440	21	67	1,315	20	66	8
Luba	5	7,409	1,617	5,792	19,141	18	63	17,446	13	56	1,695	16	61	9
Malibcong	5	10,647	839	9,807	22,732	9	48	21,483	8	36	1,249	21	68	5
Manabo	5	14,333	1,656	12,677	20,406	14	59	16,637	16	61	3,769	9	45	18
Penarrubia	5	4,679	2,619	2,060	16,208	23	72	16,560	18	63	(352)	27	76	(2)
Pidigan	5	5,155	2,254	2,901	16,567	21	70	14,992	23	70	1,574	17	63	10
Pilar	5	19,432	3,319	16,113	29,463	3	22	16,594	17	62	12,869	1	5	44
Sallapadan	5	11,627	357	11,270	7,531	27	76	6,790	27	76	741	23	71	10
San Isidro	6	9,413	4,363	5,050	18,077	19	65	15,545	20	66	2,532	13	52	14
San Juan	5	9,349	606	8,743	19,553	16	61	18,168	12	53	1,385	18	64	7
San Quintin	5	9,350	555	8,794	16,408	22	71	14,205	24	71	2,203	15	57	13
Tayum	5	15,090	3,651	11,439	21,315	13	56	17,216	14	58	4,099	8	42	19
Tineg	4	24,536	139	24,397	39,827	2	13	34,081	2	10	5,746	3	19	14
Tubo	4	18,539	1,157	17,382	27,332	7	33	22,287	7	32	5,045	4	30	18
Villaviciosa	5	4,895	1,312	3,584	15,110	25	74	13,777	25	72	1,332	19	65	9
Apayao		355,801	73,483	282,317	291,729		5	220,693		5	71,036		3	
Calanasan	2	90,589	26,652	63,937	63,778	1	3	55,384	1	3	8,395	5	14	13
Conner	3	39,221	4,725	34,496	45,660	4	10	29,013	4	17	16,646	2	3	36
Flora	4	21,828	4,522	17,306	30,019	5	21	28,388	5	20	1,631	7	62	5
Kabugao	UN	65,635	17,140	48,495	51,310	2	6	38,789	2	7	12,520	3	6	24
Luna	3	81,480	10,891	70,590	49,370	3	9	30,499	3	14	18,871	1	2	38
Pudtol	4	39,121	4,982	34,139	28,774	6	23	19,762	6	43	9,013	4	12	31
Sta Marcela	5	17,926	4,572	13,354	22,818	7	46	18,858	7	46	3,960	6	43	17
Benguet		794,582	155,610	638,972	496,296		2	400,312		2	95,984		1	
Atok	4	27,142	2,279	24,863	27,743	8	29	22,045	10	34	5,698	5	21	21
Bakun	4	68,735	33,750	34,985	35,888	5	17	32,261	4	11	3,627	8	46	10
Buguias	4	47,584	12,837	34,747	34,908	6	19	31,702	5	12	3,206	9	49	9
Bokod	4	30,598	12,630	17,968	27,941	7	28	25,976	8	24	1,965	12	59	7
Itogon	1	149,284	19,653	129,630	60,190	2	5	50,290	2	5	9,900	3	10	16
Kabayan	5	23,959	9,773	14,186	25,431	11	40	23,461	9	29	1,969	11	58	8
Kapangan	5	27,114	2,103	25,011	26,365	10	37	20,699	11	40	5,656	6	23	21
Kibungan	4	24,146	8,234	15,912	27,615	9	31	27,228	7	21	387	13	72	1
La Trinidad	1	179,093	27,185	151,908	96,920	1	1	61,558	1	2	35,362	1	1	36
Mankayan	4	61,274	12,258	49,016	39,494	4	14	31,415	6	13	8,070	4	15	20
Sablan	5	33,296	4,164	29,131	22,807	12	47	18,246	12	51	4,562	7	34	20
Tuba	2	64,636	8,693	55,944	50,284	3	8	37,188	3	8	13,096	2	4	26
Tublay	5	57,720	2,049	55,671	20,730	13	58	18,245	13	52	2,486	10	53	12
Ifugao		242,616	58,709	183,907	296,039		3	239,994		4	56,045		4	
Aguinaldo	4	30,078	4,829	25,249	38,930	1	15	29,502	2	16	9,429	1	11	24
Alfonso Lista	4	32,266	8,780	23,487	35,743	2	18	30,195	1	15	5,548	4	25	16
Asipulo	5	16,518	4,512	12,007	21,173	10	57	16,879	10	60	4,294	9	38	20
Banaue	4	17,256	942	16,313	27,691	4	30	23,458	5	30	4,233	10	39	15
Hingyon	5	18,434	4,097	14,336	16,937	11	68	12,153	11	74	4,784	7	32	28
Hungduan	5	23,644	6,720	16,924	24,176	8	43	18,431	8	50	5,745	2	20	24
Kiangan	4	17,899	8,567	9,333	25,308	7	41	20,026	7	42	5,282	6	28	21
Lagawe	4	19,114	5,250	13,864	28,500	3	26	24,072	4	27	4,428	8	36	16
Lamut	4	35,213	6,164	29,049	27,416	5	32	26,260	3	22	1,156	11	69	4
Mayoyao	4	13,925	4,786	9,139	26,732	6	35	21,195	6	38	5,537	5	26	21
Tinoc	5	18,268	4,062	14,206	23,433	9	45	17,825	9	55	5,608	3	24	24
Kalinga		233,377	94,242	139,136	295,390		4	244,319		3	51,071		5	
Balbalan	4	29,937	4,604	25,332	36,325	3	16	24,868	3	26	11,458	1	8	32
Lubuagan	4	14,918	5,456	9,462	22,586	7	50	21,292	5	37	1,294	8	67	6
Pasil	5	8,827	1,205	7,622	21,373	8	55	18,978	7	45	2,395	7	54	11
Pinukpuk	2	30,297	7,392	22,905	50,426	2	7	42,883	2	6	7,544	4	16	15
Rizal	5	30,427	16,693	13,734	25,997	6	38	20,747	6	39	5,250	5	29	20
Tabuk	1	87,983	45,894	42,089	85,533	1	2	75,470	1	1	10,063	2	9	12
Tanudan	4	19,069	10,118	8,951	26,371	5	36	17,836	8	54	8,535	3	13	32
Tinglayan	5	11,920	2,880	9,040	26,779	4	34	22,246	4	33	4,533	6	35	17
Mt. Province		201,079	63,476	137,604	260,786		6	211,458		6	49,328		6	
Barlig	5	10,796	2,816	7,980	21,995	6	51	18,580	6	49	3,415	8	47	16
Bauko	4	16,264	6,491	9,774	30,754	3	20	26,036	3	23	4,718	5	33	15
Besao	5	17,942	8,261	9,681	21,968	7	52	16,292	8	64	5,676	3	22	26
Bontoc	4	45,365	14,937	30,428	40,510	2	12	28,698	2	19	11,812	1	7	29
Natonin	4	20,955	1,572	19,383	24,229	5	42	18,840	5	47	5,389	4	27	22
Paracelis	4	19,423	5,308	14,115	41,413	1	11	35,321	1	9	6,093	2	18	15
Sabangan	5	11,701	1,902	9,800	17,601	9	66	15,266	9	69	2,336	9	55	13
Sadanga	5	10,148	824	9,324	17,404	10	67	13,550	10	73	3,854	7	44	22
Sagada	5	17,801	3,602	14,199	19,073	8	64	17,219	7	57	1,854	10	60	10
Tadian	4	30,684	17,764	12,920	25,837	4	39	21,656	4	35	4,182	6	41	16
REGION 1		7,027,359	1,479,150	5,548,209	4,636,680			3,475,341			1,161,339			
Ilocos Norte		1,130,969	201,409	929,560	762,406		4	567,934		4	194,473		4	
Adams	5	33,680	4,295	29,385	16,066	21	116	13,271	20	108	2,796	22	107	17
Bacarra	4	32,693	15,625	17,068	38,268	7	50	32,838	5	37	5,430	17	86	14
Badoc	4	84,841	19,025	65,816	43,087	4	40	27,440	7	51	15,647	3	21	36
Bangui	4	52,756	4,185	48,571	27,661	16	85	21,143	15	81	6,519	14	79	24
Batac	1	174,961	15,273	159,687	89,502	1	1	59,614	1	6	29,888	1	3	33
Burgos	5	19,955	1,187	18,768	20,178	19	111	16,735	19	97	3,443	20	100	17
Carasi	5	16,804	2,063	14,742	15,209	22	117	10,660	22	117	4,549	19	93	30
Currimao	5	42,591	18,909	23,682	25,597	18	96	17,893	18	94	7,704	6	60	30
Dingras	4	65,726	10,524	55,202	41,566	5	44	34,291	4	36	7,275	11	68	18
Dumalneg	5	17,952	914	17,038	16,518	20	115	11,060	21	115	5,458	16	85	33
Espiritu/Banna	4	14,725	1,520	13,205	28,700	15	80	25,902	9	57	2,797	21	106	10
Marcos	4	27,378	9,878	17,500	26,485	17	93	20,015	17	85	6,469	15	80	24
Nueva Era	4	40,680	3,479	37,200	35,412	9	60	22,996	14	73	12,415	4	33	35
Pagudpud	4	73,604	4,751	68,853	36,713	8	53	24,619	10	61	12,094	5	36	33
Paoay	4	43,532	4,461	39,071	31,547	13	73	23,950	12	65	7,597	9	62	24
Pasuquin	4	53,808	11,171	42,637	34,644	10	61	27,296	8	53	7,348	12	69	21
Piddig	4	40,289	21,423	18,866	34,628	11	62	29,605	6	47	5,023	18	89	15
Pinili	5	67,070	5,071	61,998	38,768	6	48	20,815	16	82	17,953	2	15	46
San Nicolas	4	77,022	23,781	53,241	43,575	3	39	36,238	3	31	7,337	13	71	17
Sarrat	4	28,905	1,932	26,973	30,827	14	77	23,236	13	70	7,591	10	63	25
Solsona	4	52,944	12,979	39,966	33,416	12	66	24,069	11	64	9,347	7	48	28
Vintar	3	67,054	6,963	60,091	54,039	2	23	44,245	2	21	9,793	6	45	18
Ilocos Sur		2,113,975	357,515	1,756,460	1,058,643		2	636,189		2	422,453		1	
Alilem	5	38,829	2,491	36,338	26,480	23	94	16,414	18	98	10,066	19	43	38
Banayoyo	5	70,669	6,809	63,860	28,546	17	81	13,117	26	109	15,429	12	23	54
Bantay	4	53,753	7,035	46,718	32,981	14	68	24,857	8	58	8,124	25	58	25
Burgos	4	69,909	8,244	61,664	33,864	12	63	16,080	19	99	17,784	9	16	53
Cabugao	3	148,823	31,948	116,874	64,208	1	12	33,748	3	33	30,459	1	2	47
Caoayan	5	16,265	5,765	10,500	25,238	24	99	20,009	14	86	5,229	29	88	21
Cervantes	4	42,810	22,598	20,212	26,831	22	90	23,610	11	68	3,221	30	101	12
Galimuyod	4	74,343	8,939	65,404	33,046	13	67	13,779	24	105	19,267	8	11	58
G Del Pilar	5	59,191	6,107	53,084	20,735	30	110	11,795	30	113	8,940	23	52	43
Lidlidda	5	25,333	4,070	21,264	20,778	29	109	11,605	31	114	9,173	21	50	44
Magsingal	4	72,973	18,039	54,934	44,412	8	37	30,006	4	45	14,406	13	25	32
Nagbukel	5	48,283	1,509	46,774	24,731	25	103	12,985	27	110	11,747	17	37	47
Narvacan	2	187,079	75,521	111,557	53,569	2	25	37,442	1	29	16,127	11	19	30
Quirino	4	38,178	12,306	25,872	27,774	19	84	17,965	16	93	9,809	20	44	35
Salcedo	4	53,174	13,236	39,938	30,864	16	76	14,153	23	104	16,711	10	18	54
San Emilio	4	40,653	942	39,707	35,432	11	59	14,467	21	102	20,965	7	10	59
San Esteban	5	38,179	1,638	36,541	27,085	21	88	14,311	22	103	12,773	15	29	47
San Ildefonso	5	38,912	6,073	32,839	20,958	28	107	12,157	28	111	8,801	24	54	42
San Juan	4	94,390	12,422	81,969	47,260	5	31	22,901	12	74	24,359	2	5	52
San Vicente	5	52,567	6,524	46,043	36,326	10	55	13,562	25	106	22,764	4	7	63
Santa	4	52,543	7,901	44,642	27,372	20	87	20,412	13	84	6,960	27	75	25
Santiago	4	23,424	3,163	20,261	18,983	31	112	18,887	15	89	97	32	117	1
Sigay	5	62,085	8,641	53,445	23,458	26	105	10,983	32	116	12,476	16	32	53
Sinait	3	104,855	12,223	92,632	50,418	3	27	27,844	5	49	22,574	5	8	45
Sta Catalina	5	36,297	2,323	33,974	22,476	27	106	14,898	20	100	7,578	26	64	34
Sta Cruz	4	149,208	8,631	140,577	36,555	9	54	27,481	6	50	9,074	22	51	25
Sta Lucia	3	95,782	7,212	88,570	45,892	7	35	24,815	9	60	21,077	6	9	46
Sta Maria	3	124,765	15,433	109,332	47,071	6	32	23,855	10	66	23,216	3	6	49
Sto Domingo	4	23,896	6,119	17,778	28,043	18	83	26,312	7	56	1,731	31	112	6
Sugpon	5	50,996	17,001	33,995	18,831	32	113	12,074	29	112	6,757	28	78	36
Suyo	4	46,930	770	46,160	30,942	15	75	16,852	17	96	14,091	14	27	46
Tagudin	4	78,882	15,877	63,006	47,483	4	30	36,816	2	30	10,667	18	41	22
La Union		1,242,221	220,382	1,021,839	834,988		3	592,208		3	242,780		3	
Agoo	2	106,602	6,686	99,916	67,409	2	9	49,214	3	15	18,195	5	14	27
Aringay	3	33,378	10,817	22,561	38,130	12	52	33,289	6	35	4,841	18	92	13
Bacnotan	2	210,329	12,194	198,136	60,575	4	14	32,338	7	38	28,237	2	4	47
Bagulin	5	16,713	799	15,914	23,960	18	104	18,984	16	88	4,975	17	91	21
Balaoan	3	52,806	11,658	41,148	67,250	3	10	30,939	9	42	36,311	1	1	54
Bangar	3	53,505	17,196	36,309	41,716	9	42	24,446	10	62	17,271	6	17	41
Bauang	1	155,701	51,699	104,002	83,063	1	2	63,998	1	5	19,064	3	12	23
Burgos	5	24,011	2,210	21,801	20,870	19	108	14,692	19	101	6,178	16	83	30
Caba	4	59,291	3,376	55,915	28,990	14	79	21,525	13	79	7,465	12	87	26
Luna	4	67,799	19,840	47,958	38,225	11	51	22,429	11	76	15,796	7	20	41
Naguilian	2	108,687	10,231	98,456	57,802	6	21	43,604	5	22	14,197	8	26	25
Pugo	5	22,546	1,560	20,986	25,160	17	100	18,716	17	91	6,445	15	81	26
Rosario	3	57,895	12,661	45,234	55,672	7	22	48,758	4	16	6,915	14	76	12
San Gabriel	4	57,455	14,942	42,513	27,607	15	86	20,501	14	83	7,106	13	72	26
San Juan	3	50,670	24,974	25,696	58,769	5	17	57,471	2	7	1,298	19	113	2
Santol	5	35,764	2,917	32,846	26,660	16	92	17,823	18	95	8,837	11	53	33
Sto Tomas	4	64,609	5,872	58,736	42,975	8	41	31,640	8	40	11,334	9	39	26
Sudipen	4	38,781	6,405	32,375	38,670	10	49	19,663	15	87	19,007	4	13	49
Tubao	4	25,679	4,346	21,337	31,496	13	74	22,178	12	78	9,318	10	49	30
Pangasinan		2,540,195	699,844	1,840,351	1,980,643		1	1,679,010		1	301,633		2	
Agno	4	27,157	5,744	21,414	31,689	32	70	27,371	30	52	4,318	28	94	14
Aguilar	4	40,122	1,944	38,178	35,645	27	57	29,835	28	46	5,810	25	84	16
Alcala	4	57,922	15,836	42,086	33,659	30	65	30,147	26	43	3,513	33	99	10
Anda	4	44,600	21,526	23,074	35,592	28	58	27,177	32	55	8,415	15	57	24
Asingan	3	68,973	7,977	60,996	46,005	19	34	33,594	23	34	12,411	6	34	27
Balungao	4	23,157	3,373	19,784	25,373	41	98	22,558	39	75	2,814	36	104	11
Bani	3	72,198	10,847	61,352	44,578	20	36	41,563	16	23	3,015	35	103	7
Basista	5	30,140	11,364	18,776	26,678	38	91	21,412	41	80	5,266	26	87	20
Bautista	5	18,648	3,376	16,273	25,471	40	97	23,123	37	71	2,348	41	111	9
Bayambang	2	89,987	46,607	43,380	71,098	4	6	69,965	4	4	1,134	43	115	2
Binalonan	3	67,496	19,322	48,174	51,984	15	26	41,359	17	24	10,625	10	42	20
Binmaley	3	70,758	22,652	48,106	62,013	8	13	49,401	11	14	12,611	5	31	20
Bolinao	2	68,671	39,509	29,161	57,919	13	20	49,908	10	13	8,011	16	59	14
Bugallon	3	73,821	20,985	52,836	46,592	18	33	39,093	20	27	7,500	19	66	16
Burgos	5	28,085	7,474	20,611	26,895	37	89	23,098	38	72	3,797	30	96	14
Calasiao	2	29,701	14,161	15,540	66,993	7	11	54,616	5	8	12,377	7	35	18
Dasol	4	57,987	19,896	38,091	31,662	33	71	24,125	34	63	7,537	18	65	24
Infanta	4	23,787	6,253	17,534	30,564	35	78	23,566	36	69	6,998	22	74	23
Labrador	5	46,998	3,443	43,555	24,846	42	101	18,641	43	92	6,205	24	82	25
Laoac	5	23,085	2,869	20,216	24,758	43	102	22,289	40	77	2,470	40	110	10
Lingayen	1	67,763	24,889	42,874	68,252	6	8	52,992	8	11	15,259	2	24	22
Mabini	4	30,903	14,225	16,681	33,753	29	64	30,039	27	44	3,714	31	97	11
Malasiqui	1	104,468	30,883	73,585	80,817	1	3	73,712	2	2	7,105	21	73	9
Manaoag	3	103,755	31,775	71,980	49,414	17	29	45,733	13	18	3,682	32	98	7
Mangaldan	1	118,395	10,393	108,003	80,549	2	4	73,211	3	3	7,337	20	70	9
Mangatarem	2	125,102	22,999	102,103	60,431	9	15	50,721	9	12	9,710	11	46	16
Mapandan	4	36,026	15,101	20,926	32,165	31	69	29,025	29	48	3,141	34	102	10
Natividad	5	29,067	14,289	14,778	26,327	39	95	23,678	35	67	2,649	39	109	10
Pozorrubio	3	121,528	31,522	90,006	59,206	10	16	45,582	15	20	13,623	3	28	23
Rosales	3	53,915	6,160	47,756	49,729	16	28	39,034	21	28	10,696	9	40	22
San Fabian	3	57,367	27,814	29,553	58,714	11	18	46,994	12	17	11,721	8	38	20
San Jacinto	4	10,331	4,127	6,204	39,693	25	47	35,793	22	32	3,900	29	95	10
San Manuel	4	59,982	9,902	50,080	41,431	22	43	40,262	19	26	1,169	42	114	3
San Nicolas	4	38,382	18,121	20,261	43,760	21	38	40,950	18	25	2,810	37	106	6
San Quintin	4	46,106	8,422	37,684	31,646	34	72	24,839	33	59	6,808	23	77	22
Sison	4	81,242	21,640	59,602	39,723	24	46	32,049	24	39	7,674	17	61	19
Sta Barbara	2	84,078	23,929	60,149	69,589	5	7	54,155	6	9	15,434	1	22	22
Sta Maria	4	19,618	6,669	12,949	28,245	36	82	18,841	42	90	9,404	12	47	33
Sto Tomas	5	21,425	2,138	19,287	18,301	44	114	13,278	44	107	5,023	27	90	27
Sual	3	138,771	4,595	134,176	80,453	3	5	77,752	1	1	2,700	38	108	3
Tayug	4	48,826	22,733	26,092	40,032	23	45	31,501	25	41	8,531	14	56	21
Umingan	2	45,841	25,012	20,829	53,987	14	24	53,170	7	10	816	44	116	2
Urbiztondo	4	28,843	5,009	23,834	35,970	26	56	27,182	31	54	8,787	13	55	24
Villasis	3	102,963	31,140	71,822	58,443	12	19	45,679	14	19	12,764	4	30	22
REGION 2		4,507,386	1,303,942	3,203,445	3,563,485			3,107,680			455,804			
Batanes		121,643	57,157	64,486	80,307		5	73,330		5	6,978		5	
Basco	5	42,138	20,965	21,173	19,878	1	83	16,466	2	80	3,412	1	80	17
Itbayat	5	26,478	16,357	10,121	15,259	2	85	13,486	1	78	1,773	2	81	12
Ivana	6	17,331	1,180	16,151	10,895	6	90	10,361	5	89	534	5	85	5
Mahatao	6	9,870	2,411	7,458	10,928	5	89	10,059	6	90	869	6	86	8
Sabtang	6	15,942	12,961	2,981	12,185	3	87	11,841	3	87	343	3	83	3
Uyugan	6	9,885	3,283	6,602	11,162	4	88	11,116	4	88	46	4	84	0
Cagayan		1,587,248	368,108	1,219,140	1,153,145		2	982,782		2	170,363		2	
Abulug	4	28,855	9,077	19,778	31,651	20	53	27,300	17	52	4,351	20	57	14
Alcala	4	21,845	9,077	12,768	34,732	16	47	32,443	10	28	2,289	11	36	7
Allacapan	4	62,981	18,687	44,294	37,032	13	42	28,675	24	71	8,357	17	51	23
Amulung	4	72,703	11,052	61,651	40,293	10	32	29,783	16	49	10,510	15	48	26
Aparri	2	85,484	9,081	76,403	58,614	6	13	51,113	6	14	7,502	6	14	13
Baggao	1	152,341	14,560	137,781	82,386	1	3	57,471	5	9	24,915	3	9	30
Ballesteros	4	36,812	8,725	28,087	30,173	21	58	26,090	23	68	4,085	21	60	14
Buguey	4	44,605	25,589	19,016	32,081	19	52	28,745	15	48	3,336	16	50	10
Calayan	4	89,074	32,389	56,685	36,544	15	44	29,989	13	37	6,556	14	45	18
Camalaniugan	4	43,643	13,886	29,757	28,352	23	65	28,131	20	63	221	18	53	1
Claveria	4	36,986	8,789	28,197	37,477	12	38	27,895	19	62	9,582	19	64	26
Enrile	4	26,086	3,244	22,842	32,733	17	50	30,524	12	36	2,209	13	44	7
Gattaran	2	72,459	25,948	46,511	65,808	4	10	57,198	8	23	8,610	4	10	13
Gonzaga	3	95,218	38,104	57,114	58,767	5	12	54,414	4	8	4,353	5	12	7
Iguig	5	15,148	1,899	13,249	23,990	26	69	23,801	18	57	2,188	24	64	8
Lallo	2	59,544	26,372	33,173	71,290	3	8	66,140	1	3	5,149	1	3	7
Lasam	4	44,041	7,931	36,110	37,004	14	43	38,431	7	20	(1,428	9	25	(4)
Pamplona	4	39,544	7,289	32,255	27,674	24	66	21,013	26	74	6,662	25	68	24
Penablanca	1	147,731	22,127	125,604	73,705	2	7	60,896	2	4	14,809	2	8	20
Piat	4	40,907	9,832	31,075	29,480	22	62	25,916	25	73	3,564	22	61	12
Rizal	5	30,975	2,714	28,261	21,830	27	79	18,229	27	81	3,601	27	76	16
Sanchez-Mira	4	25,069	10,347	14,723	32,336	18	51	24,955	21	65	7,400	23	62	23
Sta Ana	4	43,792	6,037	37,755	39,814	11	33	36,383	14	39	3,431	10	28	9
Sta Praxedes	5	13,592	2,769	10,823	15,038	28	86	12,605	28	85	2,453	28	82	16
Sta Teresita	5	33,316	7,539	25,777	24,261	25	73	20,383	22	67	3,879	26	72	16
Sto Nino	4	44,064	7,506	36,558	40,894	9	31	32,002	11	32	8,891	12	38	22
Solana	2	78,260	19,551	58,709	56,062	7	16	45,102	9	27	10,960	8	23	20
Tuao	3	102,174	7,991	94,183	49,083	8	23	47,155	3	7	1,928	7	19	4
Isabela		1,759,904	633,965	1,125,939	1,467,629		1	1,288,775		1	178,853		1	
Alicia	2	71,435	32,211	39,223	55,915	6	17	56,841	7	13	(926	4	11	(2)
Angadanan	4	28,010	13,713	14,298	35,950	16	46	33,434	14	25	2,515	12	35	7
Aurora	4	49,423	20,363	29,060	33,636	18	49	31,302	22	46	2,334	16	42	7
Benito Soliven	4	18,610	4,166	14,445	28,826	26	64	26,824	26	55	2,002	23	59	7
Burgos	5	31,458	6,995	24,463	23,369	32	76	20,926	33	75	2,443	28	69	10
Cabagan	3	41,287	18,826	22,461	49,857	10	22	47,270	8	16	2,587	7	17	5
Cabatuan	4	39,089	35,195	3,894	34,191	17	48	31,852	19	41	2,340	13	39	7
Cordon	4	69,314	19,195	50,119	37,291	15	40	31,817	30	61	5,475	14	40	15
Delfin Albano	4	32,258	7,077	25,181	30,428	21	57	30,769	20	42	(341	17	43	(1)
Dinapigue	3	40,469	2,988	37,481	48,876	11	24	41,871	2	2	7,005	32	87	14
Divilacan	4	41,375	1,006	40,369	43,837	13	28	31,791	23	51	12,045	15	41	27
Echague	1	128,981	63,465	65,516	78,867	3	4	62,573	5	10	16,293	3	6	21
Gamu	4	23,108	8,247	14,862	27,360	27	67	22,497	31	69	4,863	27	67	18
Ilagan	1	191,501	79,659	111,842	135,579	1	1	127,316	1	1	8,262	1	1	6
Jones	2	47,692	37,787	9,905	59,446	4	11	50,050	17	34	9,395	6	15	16
Luna	5	34,594	16,105	18,488	23,014	33	77	18,723	35	79	4,291	31	75	19
Maconacon	4	23,304	3,744	19,569	31,036	19	55	27,882	16	31	3,154	20	55	10
Mallig	4	27,915	13,789	14,126	29,581	24	61	28,273	24	53	1,308	19	52	4
Naguilian	4	14,284	4,363	9,921	24,870	31	72	22,683	25	54	2,187	26	66	9
Palanan	3	39,018	2,314	36,704	51,951	9	20	46,514	10	18	5,437	9	21	10
Quezon	4	38,301	19,794	18,507	30,942	20	56	26,925	29	60	4,017	22	58	13
Quirino	5	39,473	19,493	19,981	25,761	30	71	23,079	32	72	2,682	25	65	10
Ramon	3	37,911	16,530	21,381	41,009	14	30	37,726	15	26	3,283	11	27	8
Reina Mercedes	5	14,813	3,761	11,051	22,746	34	78	20,739	28	59	2,008	29	70	9
Roxas	2	66,105	27,225	38,880	52,227	8	19	46,794	13	24	5,433	8	20	10
San Agustin	4	31,221	12,537	18,684	25,764	29	70	26,208	6	11	(443)	35	90	(2)
San Guillermo	5	30,939	6,806	24,133	29,781	22	59	24,698	27	58	5,083	24	63	17
San Isidro	5	23,491	4,798	18,693	21,735	35	80	19,706	11	19	2,029	33	88	9
San Manuel	4	20,868	6,841	14,027	29,221	25	63	28,892	4	6	329	34	89	1
San Mariano	1	180,416	45,143	135,273	93,693	2	2	66,110	3	5	26,582	2	4	29
San Mateo	2	54,086	16,337	37,749	54,933	7	18	46,370	9	17	8,585	10	22	16
San Pablo	3	62,705	7,556	55,149	43,967	12	27	29,917	18	36	14,050	18	47	32
Sta Maria	5	27,838	432	27,406	29,764	23	60	27,438	21	45	2,326	21	56	8
Sto Tomas	5	35,810	8,417	27,393	26,588	28	68	19,317	34	77	7,270	30	74	27
Tumauini	2	102,804	47,088	55,716	56,596	5	14	53,647	12	22	2,949	5	13	5
Nueva Vizcaya		662,535	139,982	522,553	578,213		3	507,002		3	71,210		3	
A. Castañeda	5	13,709	8,759	6,950	37,675	7	36	33,788	9	64	3,887	7	33	10
Ambaguio	5	16,064	234	15,830	20,313	15	82	17,896	15	85	2,417	14	77	12
Aritao	3	51,425	3,089	48,336	45,685	4	25	40,497	3	40	5,188	4	24	11
Bagabag	3	54,339	9,337	45,002	39,660	6	34	35,797	11	70	3,863	5	30	10
Bambang	3	81,836	21,486	60,350	56,170	2	15	48,280	2	29	7,890	2	16	14
Bayombong	3	64,183	25,589	38,594	50,130	3	21	47,180	6	47	2,950	3	18	6
Diadi	4	23,575	7,423	16,152	23,816	13	75	19,881	14	84	3,935	13	73	17
Dupax del Norte	4	27,009	6,659	20,349	36,231	10	45	32,327	10	66	3,904	9	37	11
Dupax del Sur	4	49,808	8,337	41,471	41,186	5	29	35,247	4	43	5,939	6	32	14
Kasibu	4	38,555	10,143	28,412	37,309	8	39	29,750	8	56	7,559	11	49	20
Kayapa	4	61,000	4,405	56,595	37,240	9	41	33,489	5	44	3,751	8	34	10
Quezon	6	27,000	5,903	21,098	24,061	12	74	20,449	12	76	3,612	12	71	15
Sta Fe	4	38,331	5,384	32,948	31,498	11	54	29,985	7	50	1,513	10	46	5
Solano	2	86,897	17,348	69,649	75,872	1	6	65,049	1	12	10,823	1	5	14
Villaverde	5	26,802	5,986	20,816	21,366	14	81	17,388	13	82	3,978	15	78	19
Quirino		376,056	104,729	271,327	284,891		4	255,791		4	28,400		4	
Aglipay	4	35,233	16,311	18,922	37,663	5	37	35,704	3	30	1,950	5	31	5
Cabarroguis	4	24,739	5,544	19,195	38,141	4	35	36,174	4	33	1,967	4	29	5
Diffun	3	65,721	8,796	56,925	45,136	3	26	38,122	5	38	7,015	3	26	16
Maddela	1	72,711	36,648	36,063	67,132	2	9	67,226	2	21	(94	1	2	(0)
Nagtipunan	1	162,785	34,090	128,695	77,659	1	5	61,264	1	15	16,395	2	7	21
Saguday	5	14,867	3,341	11,526	18,461	6	84	17,301	6	83	1,160	6	79	6

Difference between totals and sum of components is due to rounding off.

*1 – Provincial Ranking
2 – Regional Ranking

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RES'DL

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Investors! Income Property Nr UST 250m² 634-1212

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA Bnew Twnhse /3stry/3br/2-2 1/2tb/grge P3.285M up 8903461 loc 34

MANILA

SN ANDRES MANILA Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.355M up 8903461 loc 34

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Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

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COMM'L/RES'DL

VARIED AREAS

MAKATI
- Galeria de Magallanes [illegible] condo 3BDR 3TB Parking 2 P10M
- Legaspi Vill PCC Bldg Rada 1F Ofc Condo 3 units 35 40 45 sqm P1 [illegible] P2 5M P2 [illegible] Beside One Legaspi Park
- Urdaneta Apts Ayala Ave 3BDR 2TB Parking 1 Slot P16M Facing Village
- Legaspi Village Rada St. Lot 919 sqm Multi-storey bldg GFA 3150sqm Parking Slots 33 P130M
- San Antonio Village Yakal Lot 1445sqm Bldg 686sqm P72M [illegible] Euro Swiss Food Corp

MANILA
- Sta. Cruz Rizal Ave 1112 sqm P30 000 sqm Bet. Zurbaran & Mayhaligue Sts
- Malate Taft Ave Indiana 2585 sqm P65 000 sqm fr P80M PCU St Paul
- Adriatico 1180 sqm P65 000 sqm Between Remedios Pedro Gil

PASAY
- Taft Ave [illegible] 280 sqm Frontage [illegible] P37 000 sqm [illegible] Harrison
- Park Ave Rear Primero de Mayo 1493 sqm Frontage 24.45M P25 000 sqm or Libertad
- Sta Clara Fernando St Lot 562 sqm 4 Door Two-storey Apt P12M One Blk from Gil Puyat Ave

PARAÑAQUE
- A. Santos Ave (Sucat Rd) 17221 sqm Frontage 121 M P20 000 sqm Nr BF Cement Center
- Merville South Green Park Lot 588 sqm [illegible] GFA 643 sqm 10BDR 7B [illegible] P18M
- SLEX East Service Rd Vacant Lot 2913 sqm P116M fr Baptist Church

LAS PIÑAS
- BF Resort Mediterranean Villas Two (2) Lots 75 128 sqm & Townhouses GFA 100 sqm built

MUNTINLUPA
- Alabang Hills Dr. Marcelo Blvd Vacant 800sqm P8M fr St Benedict

SAN JUAN
- Eisenhower 1000 sqm P75M fr Club Filipino

QUEZON CITY
- Aurora Blvd Corner Lot 3460 sqm P25 000 sqm fr Maryknoll St Paul

MALABON
- [illegible] Two 2 Adjacent Lots [illegible] sqm Frontage [illegible] sqm fr St Francis Market

BULACAN
- Guiguinto Tabang [illegible] Provincial Capitol [illegible] Roads Lot 14 408 sqm w Three (3) Warehouses P100M
- Malolos McArthur Hiway Two (2) Vacant Lots 14 969 sqm P56M fr South Supermarket

BATANGAS
- [illegible] Seafront Vacant Lot [illegible] Sea Side Drive

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HOUSE & LOT

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QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS 15M 3BR Den Facing East 412-1825

GRNMEADOWS / 5BR
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STA. MARIA 225T 9372688

LAGUNA

BINAN 400T CP (0927)6438231

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CONDO/TWNHSE

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NR UST, ESPANA TOWER 6873372 0917-8102903

Singalong Manila BnewTwnhse /3stry/3br/3tbmaid's rm1-2grge P3.990M up 8903461 loc. 34

MANDALUYONG

Cityland Shaw 1br 0917-5213838

RFO.Bnew.2.3M Up. Cash / TE Rm W/ Disc 1-3BR. 09192189817

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1.3M 3Yrs No Int 40sq.m Nr Mkti & Ort 0917-9749397

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- 158m² FF 3BR w/Grge Renaissance Condo Ortigas
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BICUTAN NR. SM 5BR 3TB 2F TEL BONG 09178571089

PASAY

2Sty 2BR Villaruel Call Arnel 8326257 / 8314156

PASIG

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QUEZON CITY

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PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st class 38/57/62/148 185m² [illegible]

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

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2% W/O TAKING CAR 3677523/24

BUSINES DOCTOR 524-3197

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MALATE MLA 526-8048

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NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that the Amended Articles of Incorporation of MMLDC, INC. (the "Corporation") which shortened the term of its corporate existence to end on October 15, 2004 and thereby dissolving the said corporation on said date, has been approved by its Board of Directors and shareholders at duly constituted meetings both held on September 1, 2004.

All persons having claims against said corporation are requested to present same at the Corporation's principal place of business located at the 8/F Lopez Building, Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City.

This announcement will serve as notice to all concerned of the legal dissolution of the aforesaid corporation.

GIL S. SAN DIEGO
Corporate Secretary

(PDI – September 20, 27 & October 4, 2004)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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2% w/out taking car 6567685

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POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

DATE:__________

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), PSALM with office address at 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

I. PROJECT NAME : *Upgrade of Main Server Room*
Schedule I : ELECTRICAL SYSTEM (P-695,000.00)
Schedule II : AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM (P-350,000.00)
Schedule III : UPS SYSTEM (P 840,000.00)

II. PROJECT LOCATION : 5th floor, Bankmer Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

III. BIDDING SCHEDULE:
ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS : September 21, 2004/ BAC Secretariat
PRE-BID CONFERENCE : October 7, 2004/ 9:00 AM, PSALM Board Room
SUBMISSION OF BIDS : October 19, 2004/ 9:00 AM, PSALM Board Room

NOTE: Interested Bidders may request clarifications in writing if unable to attend the pre-bid conference.

IV. All interested bidders may secure the bid documents from the PSALM BAC Secretariat located at the 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City starting September 21, 2004 after payment of a non-refundable amount of **One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P 1,500.00).** Inquiries and/or clarifications to the eligibility and bidding requirements may be addressed to the Chairman, BAC at Tel.No. 817-00-37.

V. PSALM reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids; and without any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds or basis of the BAC's action.

VI. The approved budget for the contract is: **One Million Eight Hundred-Eighty Five Thousand Pesos** (P 1.885 Million).

(SGD.) HELEN E.V. SAN PEDRO
Chairperson, BAC

(PDI--Sept.27, 2004)

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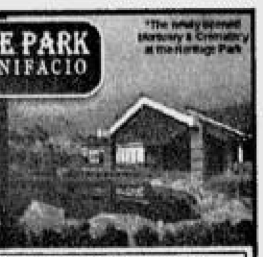

OBITUARIES

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"It is in dying that we are born to eternal life"

Our Dearly Beloved

Maestra SALVACION OPPUS YÑIGUEZ

Former Governor, Southern Leyte

Went home on the 24th day of September 2004
at the age of 86.

She is survived by her husband former Speaker **Nicanor Yñiguez**; Children **Rosette - Victor Lerias, Alfredo - Evelyn Yñiguez, Ophelia Yñiguez**; grandchildren **Kongkoy - Bubbles, Dundeet, Mikmik - Alan, Leica, Nikon, Canon, Gerard**; great grandchildren **Jingjing** and **Jongjong**; brothers, sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

She lies in state at the family residence in Ibarra, Maasin City, Southern Leyte.

Interment will be on October 2, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. Mass will be at the Maasin Cathedral followed by the funeral procession to Barangay Isagani, Maasin City.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY

7TH FLOOR LEGASPI TOWERS 200, PASEO DE ROXAS,
CITY OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA
TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 817-4711 • 817-4712 • 817-4713
• 817-5017 • 817-5018 • 817-5014 • 813-1441/46
FAX (632) 815-2662 • 815-2660 • 817-3127 • ZIP CODE 1226

INVITATION TO BID

The **PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY (PEA)** is inviting interested parties to participate in the public bidding for the sale or lease of eleven (11) lots on a serviced land basis, located at the Central Business Park 1 A, Bay City (formerly known as Boulevard 2000), Pasay City, for mixed use or commercial development purposes.

1. Properties for sale or lease:

BLK		LOT	AREA[1] (M^2)	MODE
A1	1	corner	3,843	SALE
A2	1	corner	3,462	SALE
A2	2	interior	2,568	SALE
A2	3	interior	2,611	SALE
A2	4	interior	2,573	SALE
A2	5	corner	3,321	SALE
A3	1	corner	2,500	SALE
A3	2	interior	2,222	SALE
B4		portion	5,825	SALE OR LEASE
B7		portion	4,648	SALE OR LEASE
B5		portion	18,348	SALE OR LEASE

[1] Subject to final survey

2. Qualified bidders:

Sale : Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any government owned or controlled corporations and any government financial institution or any public corporation, which have complied with the requirements established by PEA for this bidding.

Lease : Any Filipino citizen, of legal age; any partnership, association or corporation, public or private of which at least 60% of the capital stock or of any interest in said capital stock belongs wholly to citizens of the Philippines and which is organized and constituted under the laws of the Philippines.

3. Interested qualified parties may obtain the Terms of Reference and Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) in cash or Manager's/ Cashier's Check starting 28 September to 27 October, 2004 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Marketing Department, 7th Floor Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati MM.
4. The first pre-bid conference is scheduled on 21 October 2004 at 10:00 AM at the PEA Conference Room.
5. Required pre-qualification documents and duly accomplished Bid Documents prescribed in the Terms of Reference shall be submitted to the PEA Real Estates Bids and Awards Committee (PREBAC) on 4 November 2004 on or before 10:00 AM. Public opening of bids shall follow at 10:30 AM of the same day.
6. For further information, inquiries may be made to the Marketing Department in the above address at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 (trunk line) and 813-7103 to 7104 (direct lines).

(Sgd.) **TEODORICO C. TAGUINOD**
General Manager/CEO

(PDI – Sept. 27 & Oct. 2, 7, 13, 18 & 25, 2004)

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PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) is offering for public bidding, on an "as-is, where-is" basis, the following movable assets of Panay Railways, Inc. (PRI) in various locations in Panay Island, as follows:

Lot	Description	Indicative Price
1	a) Railroad bridges b) Angular bars and wooden ties c) Terminal buildings/stations	P11,652,000.00
2.	One (1) railroad bridge located at Km. 53+06, Passi City, known as "Passi Bridge"	1,671,000.00

Sealed bids will be received on October 20, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. and immediately thereafter, the bids shall be opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department. Authenticated bidding documents, together with the Asset Specific Catalogue, may be secured from PMO for a nominal fee of P1,500.00.

In the event that the public bidding becomes a failure, PMO reserves the right to consider proposals submitted for the above assets.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Matthew R. de Guzman at telephone numbers 817-8762 or 818-4733.

(PDI-Sept. 25, 26 & 27, 2004)

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More Classifieds on Pages A26, A28 & A29

OBITUARIES

We lovingly remember
our dearly beloved

ENCARNACION B. DE LEON

(† September 28, 2002)
on her 2nd death anniversary

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, September 28, 2004, at 10:00 a.m. at the De Leon Residence, 35 Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City, and at the following churches:

MARY THE QUEEN PARISH *Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.*	6:00 a.m.
DIVINE WORD MISSION SEMINARY *(Christ the King) E. Rodriguez, Sr. Blvd., Q.C.*	6:00 a.m.
SHRINE OF MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE *(Our Lady of EDSA), EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Q.C.*	6:30 a.m.
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH *San Marcelino, Manila*	6:30 a.m.
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH *Lantana, Cubao, Q.C.*	7:00 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE *Greenhills, Mandaluyong*	7:15 a.m.
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH *Pinaglabanan, San Juan, M.M.*	7:15 a.m.
BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION *(Manila Metropolitan Cathedral), Intramuros, Manila*	7:30 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH *Forbes Park, Makati*	7:30 a.m.
STA. CRUZ PARISH *Sta. Cruz, Manila*	8:00 a.m.
MOUNT CARMEL SHRINE *Doña Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, Q.C.*	6:00 p.m.

We, her family, requests relatives, friends and the pious readers to join us in our prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

LINA FLORENDO-RABOR

January 9, 1912 – August 22, 2004

would like to extend our most sincere thanks and heartfelt appreciation to all our friends and relatives who expressed their sympathy and, in other many and different ways, condoled with us in our time of loss and deep sorrow.

From: **Dabol** and **Bulelang Rabor**; **Lecti** and **Teddy Santiago**; **Necta** and **Jun Fellizar**; **Ardee** and **Luis Tagarda**; **Karl** and **Bebing Rabor**; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

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Salary/Benefit Package will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

For further details please contact:
Mr. Clinton De Souza
E-Mail: ades@thoresen.com

Send application with CV and recent photograph to:
Thoresen & Co., (Bangkok) Ltd.
Attn: Mr. Pongsak Kanchanakpan
General Manager, Group Personnel and Administration
GPO Box 1587, Bangkok 10501, Thailand
Tel: +66 2 250-0569 Fax: +66 2 655-3906

Manila Representative Office:
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TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Date: September 17, 2004
Contract No. BCMD.2004-010

1. Contract Name : Design, Supply, Delivery, Integration with existing Management Systems, Database Configuration, and Commissioning of Integrated Telecom Network Management System (ITNMS).
2. The works and services to be done by the successful bidder under this Contract shall consist of design, supply, delivery, installation, integration with existing Telecom Network Management Systems, database configuration, and commissioning of an Integrated Telecom Management System (ITNMS) to include all the necessary installation materials, devices, and related accessories. Factory integration testing and corresponding technical training for Transco personnel shall also be part of the requirement.
3. The Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid from the Internal Cash Generation of TransCo is P28,000,000.00.
4. Application for Eligibility and Bidding is open to Filipino manufacturers, suppliers/dealers, distributors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid.
5. Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be included by TransCo in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the supplier's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Post qualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
6. Eligibility & Bid Documents will be available for issuance on **September 20, 2004 at the Bids and Contract Management Department**, Ground Floor, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of letter of intent and a payment of non-refundable fee of P5,000.00.
7. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility Forms, statements and Bid Proposals (Technical and Price) shall be on **November 3, 2004, 1:30 p.m.** at the De La Paz Function Room, Training Center, Power Center, Quezon Avenue cor. BIR Road TransCo, Diliman, Quezon City, Metro Manila.

   Pre-Bid Conference shall be on **October 11, 2004** at the time and venue to be announced later.
8. Manufacturers, suppliers/dealers, distributors not yet included in the TransCo's List of registered Suppliers/Contractors, who wish to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A certificate of Registration will be issued to suppliers/contractors upon approval.
   - Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
   - Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
   - Copy of Taxpayer's Identification Number (TIN) issued by BIR or Copy of BIR registration showing TIN;
   - Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation;
   - Audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;

   For foreign bidders in Joint Venture, the required documents applicable to entities doing business in the Philippines shall be substituted by the appropriate equivalent documents issued by foreign bidder's country, which documents shall be duly acknowledged and/or authenticated by the Philippine Consulate thereat.

   Note: Prospective bidders are allowed to submit the above requirements together with their Eligibility Forms and Documents during the deadline for the submission of Eligibility requirements and Bid proposals (Technical and Price).
9. TransCo reserves the right to reject any application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
10. The Contract to be bid shall be governed by the Provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
11. Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) **DOMINADOR S. GEONZON**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Sept. 20 & 27, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
TONDO MEDICAL CENTER
Balut, Tondo, Manila

TMC – BID & AWARD COMMITTEE
INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Tondo Medical Center hereby invites sealed written bid for the procurement and delivery of various Drugs/Medicine, X-ray, Dental Supplies and Laboratory reagents / Food Stuff for the First Semester Cy 2005, Likewise, we are inviting bids for Janitorial and Security Firms for the Cy 2005.

Interested applicants must submit pre-qualifications / supporting documents, payment of non-refundable fee for Drug/Medicine Php 800.00 Medical/Surgical supply, Dental & Laboratory reagent Php 800.00 and Food Stuff Php 500, Janitorial Services Php 1,000, Security Services Php 1,000. Bidding documents can be secured at the Secretariat Tondo Medical Center at the Supply Office, Balut, Tondo, Manila.

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

	Issuance of Bids	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
Drugs & Medicine	Oct. 5-25, 2004	Oct. 26, 2004	Nov. 17, 2004	Nov. 17, 2004
Medical/Surgical Supplies, X-ray Dental & Laboratory Reagents	Oct. 5-25, 2004	Oct. 27, 2004	Nov. 18 ,2004	Nov. 18, 2004
Food Stuff	Oct. 4-22, 2004	Oct. 25, 2004	Nov. 15, 2004	Nov. 15, 2004
Janitorial Services	Oct. 11-29, 2004	Nov. 3, 2004	Dec. 8, 2004	Dec. 8, 2004
Security Services	Oct. 18, 2004 Nov. 9, 2004	Nov. 10, 2004	Dec. 8, 2004	Dec. 8, 2004

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bid bond, performance bond, pre-bid conference, bid evaluation an award of contract shall be governed by the implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR A) of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

All activities shall be held at Tondo Medical Center, Conference Room, Balut, Tondo Manila unless announced otherwise.

For Further details, please contact Secretariat Tondo Medical Center at Telephone No. 252-20-23.

TONDO MEDICAL CENTER, BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID, TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS, REJECT ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO TMC-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **VICTOR J. DELA CRUZ, MD, CESO IV**
Medical Center Chief II

(PDI – September 27 & October 4, 2004)

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

WE, CONCERNED EMPLOYEES OF THE SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION (SRA), WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR FULL SUPPORT TO **ADMINISTRATOR JAMES C. LEDESMA.**

WE SUPPORT MR. LEDESMA BECAUSE OF HIS LEADERSHIP CAPABILITIES, EXEMPLARY QUALIFICATIONS, UNQUESTIONABLE INTEGRITY AND HIS CONVICTION AND DEDICATION TO WORK FOR THE WELFARE OF THE SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION AND ITS EMPLOYEES.

CONCERNED EMPLOYEES OF SRA

(PAID ADVERTISEMENT)

NFA holds austere but meaningful celebration

TURNING 32 years old on September 26, the National Food Authority celebrates its founding anniversary in an austere but meaningful way in keeping with the cost saving directives of the government.

This year's NFA anniversary celebration, which also coincides with the Grains Industry Week, from Sept. 20-24, evolves over the theme "32 years of service to the nation"

In leading this year's celebration of the agency, NFA officer-in-charge Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. encourages the agency's officials and employees not to falter in their commitment and to continuously dedicate their service in assuring the food security of the country.

The NFA operates 14 regional and 88 provincial offices nationwide.

To make this year's celebration more meaningful, Tan informed the NFA has already positioned the agency's logistics for extensive palay procurement for the main harvests scheduled to start in October.

The NFA he said is also continuing with its Palengke Watch program to benefit the consumers and assure that the agency's quality but affordable rice will always be available in the market and avoid being diverted by unscrupulous grains traders.

A week long "tiangge" by employees, a mass to be celebrated on September 24 to be followed by a simple program and giving of service awards to employees are highlights of the week-long celebration.

The NFA accepts complaints, inquiries and suggestions via the Text NFA Program. The public may send their concerns to mobile number 0917-6210927.

Asian mobile gaming business to reach $1.3B in 2008

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

A REPORT by the International Dáta Corp. (IDC) estimates that the wireless gaming industry in the Asia Pacific region is growing 40 percent annually and is expected to reach $1.3 billion by 2008.

The report noted that the business already reached 237.4 million in 2003, driven by faster wireless networks and the proliferation of new color-display handsets from all brand manufacturers.

The new IDC report also shows that the Philippine wireless gaming business is growing at 77.7 percent yearly, the third-highest growth rate in Asia, trailing India with 128 percent and Malaysia with 107.2 percent.

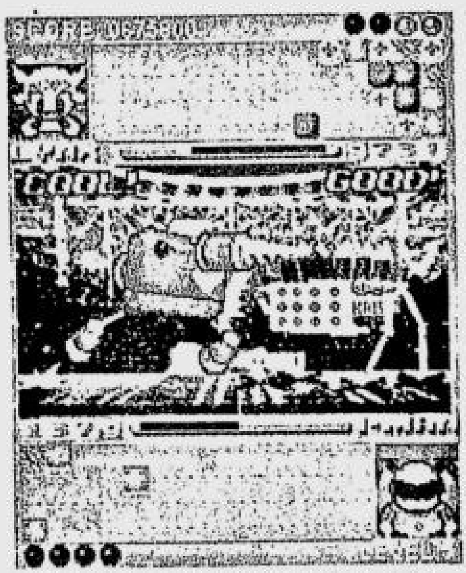
However, the Philippines will contribute only 1.4 percent to the total growth rate of the industry by 2008.

Davina Yeo, IDC Asia Pacific associate director of wireless research, said mobile operators are eager to replicate the success of ringing tones and logo downloads with wireless mobile gaming.

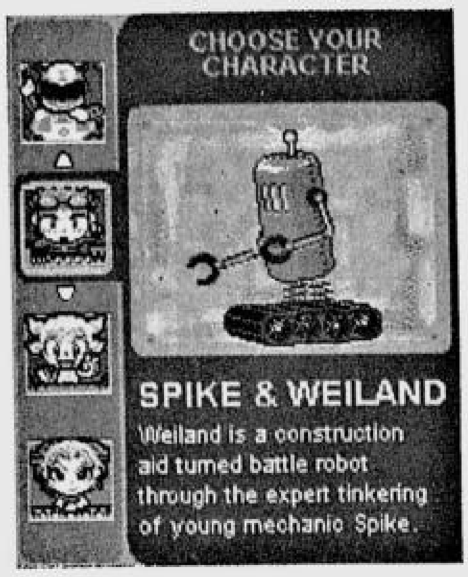
"While mobile operators have been quick to broaden the depth of their wireless game offerings, the next 12 months will see operators refining their strategies and targeting the larger audience beyond the early adopters," Yeo said.

Yeo said that while gaming continues to be a smaller portion of mobile operators' revenues from traditional voice revenues, operators will be prompted by strong demand from Asian consumers to use all forms of wireless-related entertainment services.

IDC enumerated several near-term improvements in the wireless gaming industry that may in the future drive market development of the mobile platform in the next few months. These include support for improved display graphics, better audio performance, wireless gaming device optimization, better forth factors and creative game merchandising and distribution.



GEARBOX, a fighting game for the mobile phone platform, will be Spoon Interactive's first foray into the multi-billion dollar global market for mobile games.



Weiland is a construction aid tumed battle robot through the expert tinkering of young mechanic Spike.

RP 'near perfect' market . . .

From page B15

are mostly enterprises but they have already found that Linux offers scalability at much lower costs. Now enterprises have a choice," McWhirter said.

On the other hand, McWhirter said Linux should not compete with Microsoft head on, particularly because Linux is still mainly used for enterprise purposes. He warned that doing so would be like competing with a giant.

"We should find a niche and provide the best services to that market. There are so many business needs and focusing on developing business applications for enterprises has its advantages," McWhirter said.

That, however, does not stop Linux to head to the desktop space where Microsoft Windows is currently the most dominant operating system.

McWhirter said that Red Hat is developing a thin-client based operating system that is feature-rich and can directly work with the back-end server running Linux. He said this operating system will be targeted at call centers, banks and retail shops.

Palace appoints new CICT commissioners

By Erwin Oliva and Alex Villafania
Contributors

THE PRESIDENT has appointed three new Commissioners of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, a top official told Infotech.

Appointed were Tim Diaz de Rivera, director general of the National Computer Center; Emmanuel Llana, former executive director of Digital Philippines Foundation; and Dondi Mapa, cofounder of HatchAsia.com.

Virgilio Peña, head of the CICT, said he received a copy of the appointment letters of the three commissioners on Tuesday.

"They were appointed as generic commissioners. We still have to decide later what specific sectors they are going to be in charge of," the official said.

Peña said one more commissioner is needed to complete the roster of the CICT, which was created as an interim body to the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

"This is just a first step. Now we can start organizing the Commission. We're currently addressing logistical issues," he said.

The CICT is the highest policy-making body for ICT, replacing the Information Technology and E-commerce Council that was created by both the private sector and government.

Meanwhile, Peña said they are in talks with the Rep. Simeon Kintanar of the Congressional Committee on Information Technology to come up with proposals to Congress regarding the amendment of several laws. These laws include the Telecommunications Act, the Build Operate and Transfer Law and the Procurement Act.

"There are demands of the IT sector that cannot be addressed by these laws because there are no provisions supporting IT. By amending these laws we could strengthen the IT sector since it can extend support to other industries," Peña said.

Peña gave no definite duration for the planning and submission of the proposals. However, he said these proposals will be in line with their goal of finally establishing the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

"We're also submitting a letter to Congress about the CICT's plans, with specific mention on creating the DICT," Peña said.

Peña said he is also pushing to institutionalize and increase the allocation of the e-Government fund, which will be the seed money that the CICT will disburse to IT-related government projects.

"One of their plans is to convince the (Department of Budget and Management) Secretary Emilia Boncodin that we'll be able to use up the remaining amount in the previous e-Government Fund so that we can ask for more budget allocation," Peña said, referring to the P200-million left from the P4-billion e-Government Fund.

Google your mail

From page B15

http://curl.haxx.se/.

Gallina allows you to post blog entries by sending a message through Gmail, with the "star" function (used to mark messages as important ones) serving as the publish status. Replies to the e-mail are posted as comments in the blog. So yup, now you have 1Gb of space for your blog. Gallina caused quite a stir when Slashdot.org featured it after Hernandez posted his blog using his company's network.

The same caveat for Gmailer for PHP applies to Gallina. Remember that Gmail is still a beta service, so don't expect hacks to work all the time—and, of course, this is an unauthorized use of Gmail that violates their terms of service.

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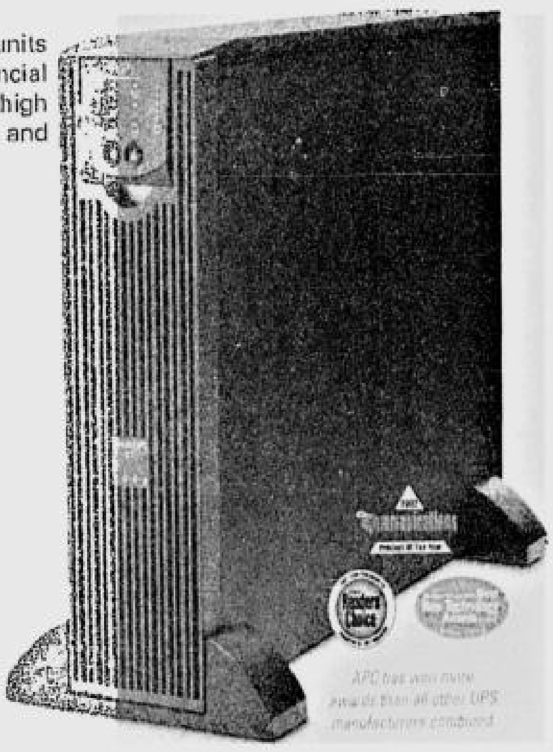

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NTC issues guidelines on 3G use

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
Contributor

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has initiated public consultations on the draft rules and regulations about the allocation and assignment of frequency bands for third generation mobile services (3G).

According to the draft copy of the guidelines, the NTC will be allocating specific frequency bands that will accommodate a total of three players.

The new guidelines also outlined the "minimum requirements" to qualify for a 3G license. Applicants will be required to post performance bonds equivalent to P300 million.

The radio frequency bands allocated for 3G were: 1920 to 1935MHz/2110 to 2125MHz for Band A; 1935 to 1950MHz/2125 to 2140MHz for Band B; 1950 to 1965MHz/2140 to 2155MHz for Band C; 1885 to 1900MHz/1965 to 1980MHz for Band D; and 2010 to 2025MHz for Band E.

The guideline indicated that the NTC would conduct a bidding for the 3G licenses if the number of applicants exceed the "allocated 3G frequency bands."

The NTC proposed to charge P100 million for each frequency band allocated to a qualified applicant, the guideline added.

The draft guidelines add that additional fees amounting to P2 million would be imposed on each qualified and authorized 3G network operator "for every 100,000 additional subscribers in excess of the first four million subscribers."

The 3G network operators will be required to cover at least 80 percent of the provincial capital cities and towns, and 80 percent of the chartered cities within five years from the date of the awarding of the license.

The guidelines also require interconnection of 3G networks.

The NTC called on all industry stakeholders to start sending comments and suggestions on or before Oct. 15, 2004.

RP 'near perfect' market for Linux: Red Hat exec

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

THE INCREASING demand for enterprise-level Linux use in the Philippines, as well as the growing support by various independent service providers (ISVs) prompted a Red Hat executive to call the Philippines a "near perfect" market for the Linux operating system.

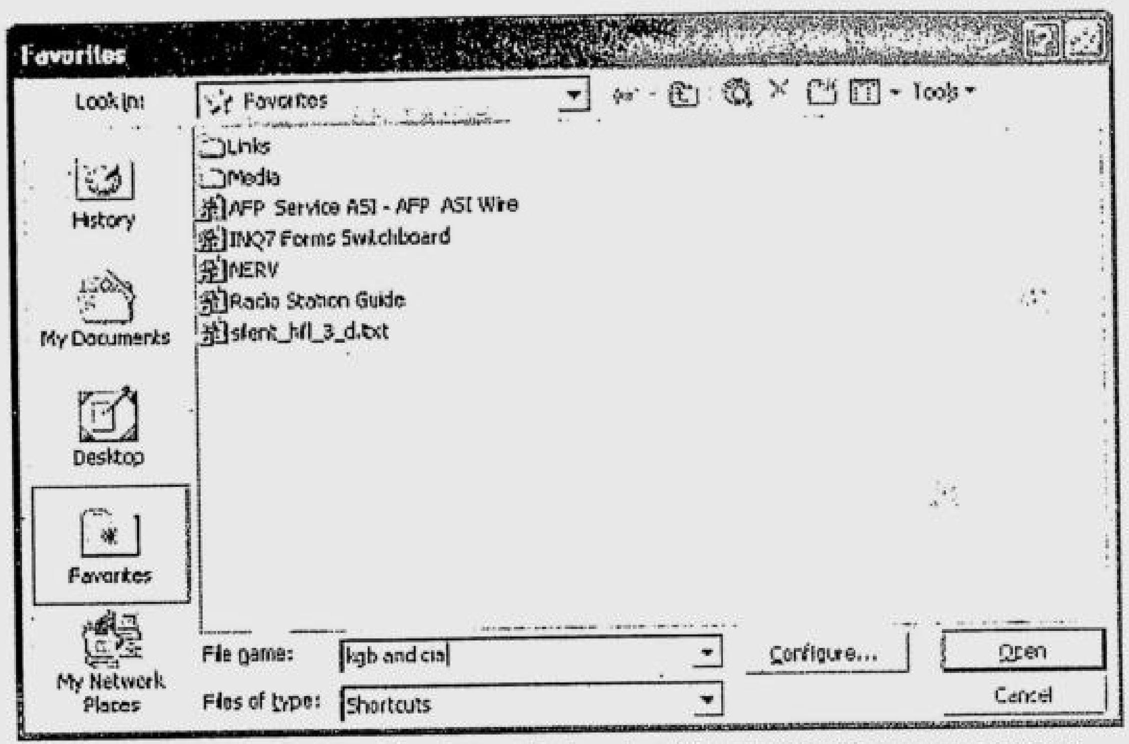
Red Hat Asia Pacific vice president Steve McWhirter told reporters that support by hardware vendors, the large local Linux developer community and the government have also driven the quick adoption of Linux in the country.

McWhirter also said Philippine industries are starting to see the value of using Linux over more expensive Unix or Microsoft platforms especially for back-end and mission-critical systems.

"Linux users in the Philippines

RP/B14

Add Word documents to your IE favorites



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FOR quick access to your favorite websites, Internet Explorer has a "Favorites" bar where you can save your favorite websites' URLs. Did you know that you can add Word documents to this list?

POWERTIPS

By Jerry Liao

DO you want to add your MS Word documents to your Internet Explorer's Favorites Menu? Here's how:

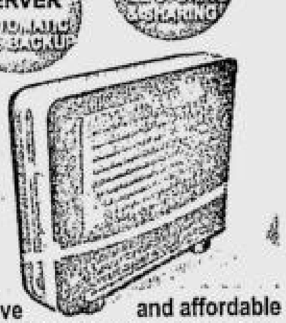
1) Open the MS Word document

2) Go to View / Toolbars / Web

3) Click on "Favorites" then choose a location to save the "Favorite" link

4) Click Add

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph. We are inviting everyone to attend the Powertips seminar on Oct. 25, 2004 at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. Tickets are available at all SM TicketNet outlets. More info at http://www.brainshare.com.ph/powertips.



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Google your mail

From page B16

previously offered . four megabytes of free e-mail storage, ratcheted this up to a fantastic 100Mb. Yay for us Yahoo! Mail users.

Hotmail, the most popular provider, now looks absolutely ridiculous with two megabytes of free storage, but loyalists shouldn't worry because a few months ago, Microsoft announced that Hotmail would increase this to 250Mb of free e-mail storage soon. Of course, "soon" is relative in Microsoft time, so let's just watch out for it.

The thing about Gmail, as the Google mail service is called, however, is that it's been in beta phase for months and you can't just waltz into the Google site and sign up for it. Nope, you have to wait for an existing Gmail user to invite you—and these invitations were extremely limited during the start of the beta. It's not like the early Gmail adopters could just go, "Hey, I think I'll invite my girlfriend, then my girlfriend's sister, then my girlfriend's sister's pet hamster, then..."

Google said this arrangement is supposed to make it easier to test the network and hammer out the kinks during beta, but personally I think it's also partly a brilliant marketing ploy, giving the impression that Gmail is something as scarce and precious as gold. Thankfully, just a little over a week ago my brother-in-law Eric Quijano invited me and I finally got my hands on a Gmail account.

So does it live up to the hype?

Mostly, yes. The 1Gb of free e-mail storage of course is the biggest come-on, but Gmail offers more than that. For one, I like the fact that every e-mail that arrives is automatically arranged into "conversations"—threads like what you get in discussion groups such as, oh, Yahoo! Groups. No more having to create different subfolders to sort your messages. Leveraging on Google's mastery of keywords, your messages will be automatically filed and cross-indexed.

I also really dig the Gmail method for attaching files—I've always found it exasperating that Hotmail and Yahoo! Mail both have shortcomings in their methods and you couldn't combine what worked. In Hotmail, remember, you have to attach and upload the file from your PC before you move on to the next one. In Yahoo!, you can select several files using the Browse button, but just as in Hotmail, you have to be redirected to a different page to attach the files, and then move on to another while the files are being attached, and then another to click "Done" if you're finished... you get the drift.

With Gmail, everything is there on the page where you're composing your message. Click attach and you stay there while the file is uploaded. Then click to add more files. No new pages. No long wait. Of course, this is the beta phase and Gmail has fewer users than its rivals, so there might be some slowdown once it's launched full blast, but the approach makes more sense.

Of course, Google is the leader in search engines, so you can easily sift through hundreds of messages. In fact, that's how Google claims it will revolutionize the way we use webmail, because you don't have to delete messages for a very long time (unless all you do is send and receive porn video clips, I suppose). Instead, just allow Gmail to index them and then search to easily retrieve them. After all, they point out that you never really know when you might need that e-mail you deleted.

Sure, it's not the life-changing experience the hype would have us believe. Its spam filter still leaves a lot to be desired, plus you have the familiar Google AdSense sponsored links and related pages targeted to your interests and location.

Still, after using Gmail, I find it hard to go back to the old way of using webmail. Maybe I'm sacrificing a bit of my privacy and making myself prey to more advertisers, but isn't that the tradeoff we make every day, particularly when we use a free service on the Web? At least it's mostly all up front in this case.

But let's face it: You're not really going to use up the free one gigabyte of e-mail storage of Gmail any time soon. Thanks to a Mexican programmer, however, users running a server and operating in a PHP environment might be able to use the free webmail service as the database for their blogs.

Called Gallina, the application is based on another hack, Gmailer for PHP (libgmailer), which basically allows you to access and check Gmail through PHP scripts. Jonathan Hernandez, the author of Gallina, explained that his application has the same requirements as libgmailer. You will need PHP 4 and above and the curl extension—for the complete libgmailer description and system requirements, visit http://gmail-lite.sourceforge.net/.

Curl "is a command line tool for transferring files with URL syntax, supporting FTP, FTPS, HTTP, HTTPS, GOPHER, TELNET, DICT, FILE and LDAP," as explained in the curl homepage at

GOOGLE/B14

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Editor Leo Magno

Google your mail

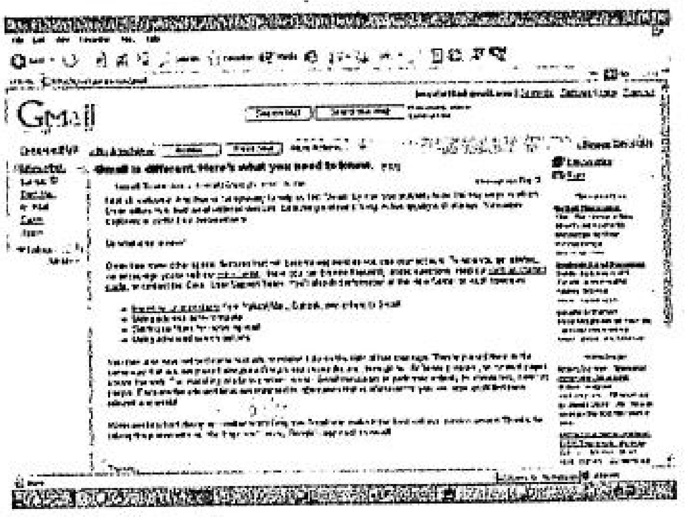
By Joey G. Alarilla
Contributor

EVERYBODY Googles. Unless you've never seen a computer or think the Web is just for spiders, chances are you've used this popular search engine. Yet why the heck should you choose Google for your free webmail?

Well, Google offers a number of reasons—not a google reasons, but plenty. The one that has users drooling the most is the prospect of enjoying one gig of free e-mail storage space.

The idea was so mindboggling when Google announced it months ago that established free webmail providers Hotmail and Yahoo! had to do something to counter it. Yahoo! Mail, which

GOOGLE/B15



Gmail is different. Here's what you need to know.

LOOK Ma, it's Gmail!

Solon wants study on RP bandwidth, broadband state

By Alexander Villafania
Contributor

SEN. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. has filed a resolution seeking to evaluate the present state of broadband technology and bandwidth availability in the Philippines.

Under the resolution, the inquiry will be spearheaded by the Senate Committee on Public Services and will be conducted by the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC).

The resolution indicates that broadband technology can be the main vehicle in coming up with converged services, such as the Internet, voice and video streaming, virtual private networks and digital television.

In an interview, Magsaysay said the purpose of the inquiry is to help the government come up with possible developmental measures to hasten commercialization in the information and telecommunications industry.

MAGSAYSAY

"By knowing the current situation of broadband technology, the government can identify what directions to take and how to fully utilize broadband technology," Magsaysay said.

Magsaysay also said broadband technology should also be made affordable to make the country a more ideal site for foreign investments.

Other Asian countries are vying for more technology investments that require good telecommunications infrastucture. Such countries that outsource their technology requirements to the Asia-Pacific region specifically look for good, clean electrical power sources, wireless technology and broadband availability.

Share Your Snaps, In a Snap!

BY (TIM YAP)

Wouldn't it be fabulous if you could share your favorite MMS snapshots with all your friends by simply creating a virtual album and posting them there for all to see? You know what I think—with parties going on left, right and center, there will always be fun and crazy moments caught on your cell phone's cam. And now, sharing those moments with all my party mates is as easy as saying "cheese"!

This incredible new service is called Mobile Printshop, and yes, it's yet another first from SMART Communications. It's basically a virtual photo album that lets you share and download photos while you're on the go, thanks to the magical technologies that are SMS, MMS and WAP. Think about that. All your favorite photos, taken from your MMS phone, you can now post in an album you create for your friends to view, download and print whenever they please!

There are 2 ways to register for this service. You can either type MPS on your SMART handset and send it to 241, or through WAP by visiting http://smart.egg.ph/printshop**, and follow the simple instructions you'll find there. When you're ready to access the Mobile Printshop, log on to the SMART WAP site at** http://wap.smart.com.ph**, go to WHAT'S NEW and click on Mobile Printshop. Click on REGISTER to get username and password via WAP. To register via SMS, type REG <username>/<password>/<fullname>/<add>/<bday>/<sex>/<email> and send to 241. Once you've done this, you'll receive a text message with your username and password. Now this is where the fun begins: once you're registered and logged in, click on ADD ALBUM. To upload a photo to an album, create new MMS message, type POST <album name> DESC <description>, attach the image and send to 241. To share an album, simply click on SHARE ALBUM. If you wanna view an album shared by a friend, click on VIEW PHOTOS then choose SHARED TO ME. To view public albums, click on VIEW PHOTOS then choose PUBLIC ALBUMS. To download a photo, click on your chosen photo and click on download. And finally, to print your downloaded photos, take a trip to your nearest KODAK EXPRESS outlet. Earn points as you download images and you might even win a Kodak CX7300 digital camera!**

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The Lions are loose in Manila!
See pages F2&F3 for details

Where to put your money these days

Expert borrower shares investment tips before going back to the private sector

By Clarissa S. Batino

A REGIME of low interest rates is a double-edged sword.

For most, it means lower cost of borrowing to buy a car, build a house or start a business. Unfortunately for the rest, it also means idle and practically non-earning funds in banks.

And at the rate deposit rates are going, it is no wonder that Filipinos shun savings and bellyache for ways to grow what little money they have kept aside for the rainy days.

Imagine, placing your life savings in a regular savings account that earns, what, 2 to 4 percent in net interest each year. So if you have P10,000 in a bank, you'd be lucky to earn P200 to P400 in a year.

A dollar account is worse because interest rates on the greenback dropped tremendously in previous years that even dollar time deposits offer no better than one percent a year.

But before any of us despair and simply decide to squander the savings on a night in a casino or on outrageously expensive wardrobe that you can only wear in Europe, best to look around and try to window-shop for better savings deals.

Sergio "Boy" Edeza, the government's expert borrower when he was national treasurer from 2001 to 2003, says regular folks need not be content with plain vanilla deposit accounts.

From the treasury, he forced himself to resign as his life savings dwindled to augment his modest salary of P29,000 a month. Boy moved to head the Philippine Export Import Credit Agency, the marketing name of Trade and Investment Guarantee Corp.

EDEZA

A brief stint in Philexim is to end this month as Boy will move back to the private sector next month.

"If you have up to a million pesos, it would be best to either buy government securities or place the money in short-term bank instruments. By short-term I mean those maturing within a year or even earlier," he says.

The obvious choices, he says, are the RTBs, short for retail treasury bonds. One need not be a high roller to buy the RTBs because these are available in cuts of P5,000 unlike the usual treasury bills that banks buy in million pesos.

The RTBs pay decent interest rates compared to a regular savings account. The last time the government sold these retail bonds was in July and the three- and five-year RTBs were sold in interest rates of 11 percent and 11.75 percent.

For a P5,000 investment in a 5-year RTB, an investor stands to get a net quarterly yield of P117 or about P2,300 upon maturity. Net yield subtracts a 20 percent withholding tax.

Since RTBs are invested through distributors like the Land Bank of the Philippines, the quarterly interest is paid through a bank account. And this gives an RTB holder a reinvestment opportunity because the yield, if left untouched with the bank, earns the regular savings interest.

Edeza says there are bank instruments that mutate from government securities. Banks sell debt papers using treasury bills or bonds as underlying securities.

The thing about banks is that they are capped by a P250,000 limit on deposit and deposit substitutes if ever they go under. Unlike a straight out government paper that is absolutely risk free because the state does not default on its obligations.

Unless of course we are talking about Argentina. Or unless we believe reports that the Philippines in on a brink of a fiscal crisis.

Boy, of course, is adamant that the country is far from being in any fiscal or financial crisis.

He says for those with a million pesos or more, then maybe they should consider buying real estate in attractive locations.

"If I am not after earning a stable flow from interest earnings, I will look at buying a real estate asset in a good location through a deferred payment plan," advises Boy.

"The rest of the funds, will still place in government securities but in shorter maturities given the possibility of higher interest rates," he adds.

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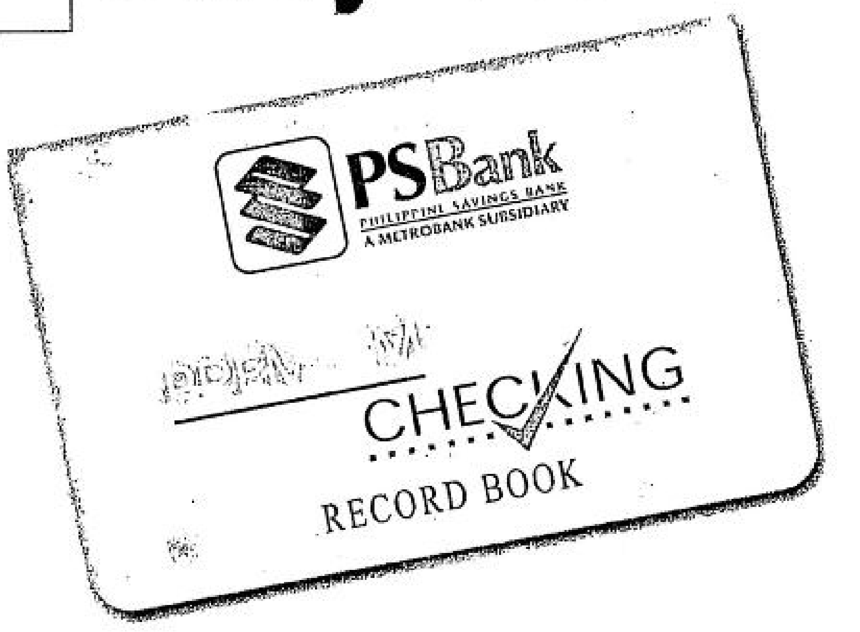

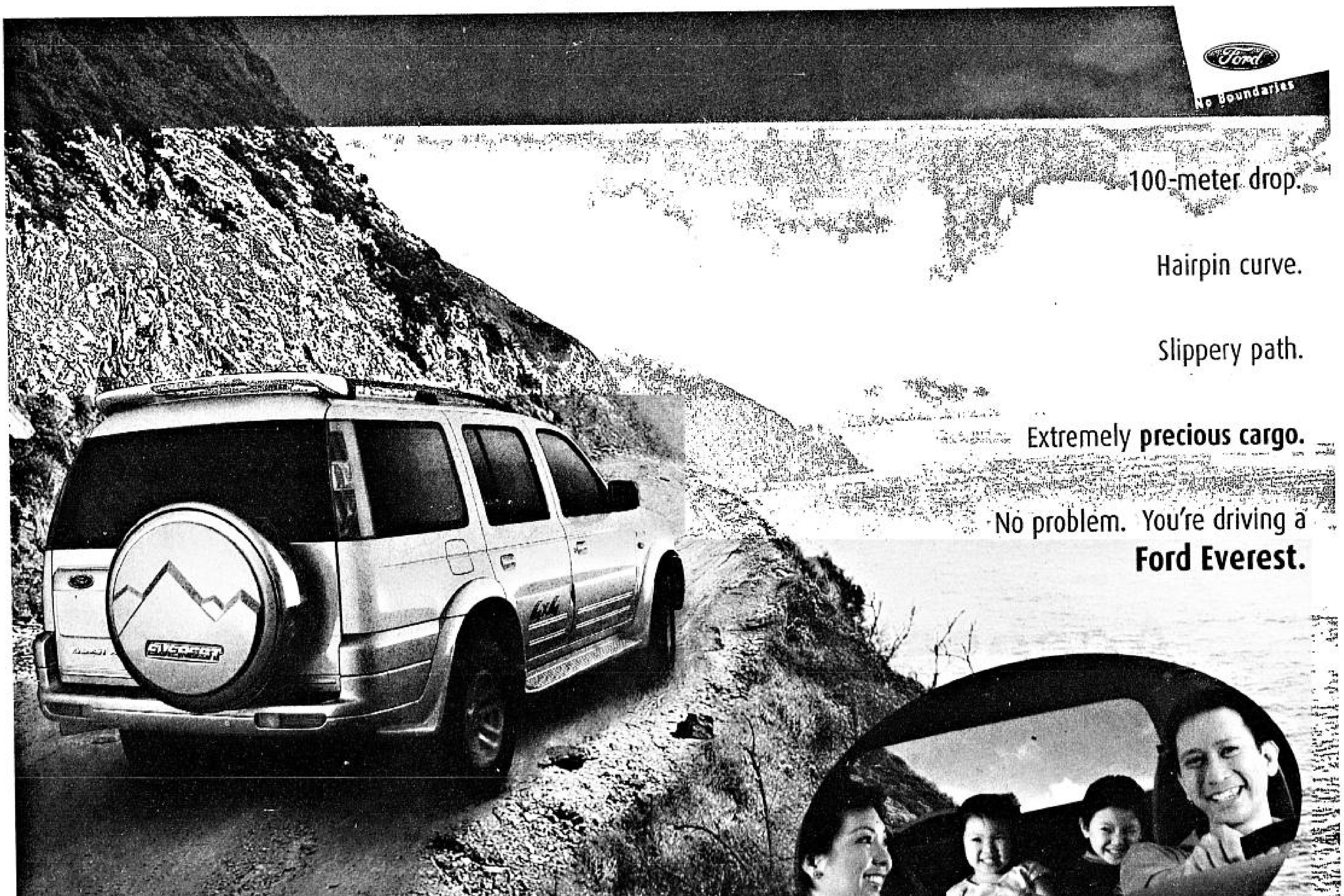
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Why the Government Procurement Reform Act has to be reformed

MAPping THE FUTURE

Manuel A. Alcuaz Jr.

NOW THAT President Macapagal-Arroyo has admitted the government is in financial trouble and resorted to begging businessmen to make contributions to lessen the fiscal deficit, it is of utmost importance that any law that makes it easy to commit graft and corruption should be amended or repealed.

The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee is now conducting an investigation of the Comelec's computerization project which costed the government nearly P3 billion and had no beneficial effects for honest citizens and voters.

Phase I involving the Voters Validation System resulted in the disenfranchisement of thousands of old voters and new registrants. It costed P1 billion.

Phase II concerning the Vote Counting Automation and Canvassing was stopped by the Supreme Court (SC) because of the Comelec's clear violations of law and jurisprudence and reckless disregard of its own bidding rules and procedure as pointed out by the SC.

Phase III which relates to the Electronic Transmission was likewise stopped by the SC for being unconstitutional.

The Senate hearing

In the first Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing, Senators Arroyo, Enrile, Madrigal, Pimentel, and Roxas have recognized how the Comelec used arbitrary pass or fail criteria to discourage or eliminate potential bidders other than those who appear to have the inside track. One such pass or fail requirement specified by the Comelec was that machines that were bid out should have been used in an election exercise with at least 20 million voters.

At the second hearing, Senators Mar Roxas and Juan Ponce Enrile questioned why the 20-million requirement was set when each machine would only count about 2,000 ballots. Commissioner Borra could not answer why the Comelec had set the 20-million voter requirement.

At the hearing on Sept. 21, 2004, the Comelec fielded Chair Abalos. Abalos did not explain the 20-million voter requirement. He side-stepped the issue and said that the Comelec wanted a vendor with experience.

Maricor Akol of the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines quickly rebutted Abalos' self serving statement on the need for an experienced company when she pointed out that it was ironic that the Comelec wanted experience and awarded the contract to MegaPacific e-Solutions which was 11 days old on the date it bid for the P1.3 billion contract.

The Comelec is either devious or completely naïve and negligent. If one considers the fact that one of MegaPacific's contractors SKCC had machines used in South Korean elections with slightly more than 20 million voters, one could think that the Comelec was devious.

On the other hand the fact that the Comelec did not realize that Japanese OMR machine vendors would not qualify because in Japan elections are by prefecture (there are no 20 million voter prefectures). In the US, elections are by state or country (even California does not have 20 million voters). In Europe, most countries have less than 20 million voters and elections are normally conducted below the national level by province, city, or parliamentary district.

How naïve and negligent can the COMELEC be?

Sen. Jamby Madrigal focused on another pass or fail requirement—"that the machine should be manufactured for at least 5 years." Senator Madrigal asked why the Comelec wanted an old machine? Did they want to eliminate Japanese OMR manufacturers who could have better, faster and less expensive machines?

Abalos side-stepped the question and said the Comelec was after "system" experience! But the bid specs categorically stated that 'the machine should have been manufactured for at least 5 years."

Does the Comelec not have a good command of English?

If one was at the hearing, one could perhaps agree. Willie Yu, the President of MegaPacific e-Solutions, could not speak in English. He spoke in Tagalog and could not comprehend Senator Enrile's simple questions in Tagalog.

Eventually, Senator Enrile gave up in exasperation.

RA No. 9184 has good intentions and excellent governing principles. However, there are critical flaws that cannot be fixed by the IRR (Implementing Rules and Regulations). Of the 78 articles the following articles need amendment:

Sec. 30 and 36 make biased bids easy.

Sec. 30 provides for "pass/fail" criteria which the BAC may define and use for disqualifying bidders. There should be a provision for protesting arbitrary pass or fail criteria.

Sec. 36 provides for award to single responsive bidder.

The combination of Sec. 30 on "arbitrary pass/fail criteria" and Sec. 36 on single responsive bidder makes it possible for the unscrupulous agencies to rig the bid in favor of the highest briber rather than the lowest bidder!

Prior to EO No. 40 and RA No. 9184, the Government Procure-

WHY/ B2-3

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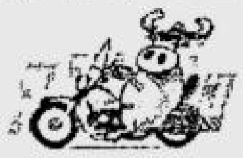

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Telco exec shares secrets to a balanced worklife

FOR A BUSY executive like Amando "Dodo" Reyes Jr., a typical day is one that requires him to juggle work and family. As head of Globe Telecom's Media and Advertising Department, Dodo's high profile job demands more than just eight hours of work, rather, commitment and dedication beyond what is usually required of an executive. Even with this, his family definitely does not take a backseat when it comes to his priorities.

With Dodo's discovery of the BPI Express World's array of services, he is able to attend to his personal needs as well as that of his family, despite a regularly hectic schedule.

Working in the highly competitive telco industry requires being able to cope with the fast paced and highly stressful environment. "I spend the whole day overseeing and coordinating ad placements and rates, handling message management for numerous on-going marketing campaigns; this normally makes for a stressful day," describes Dodo. Still, making time for his family is always part of this busy exec's agenda.

"I make it a point to have breakfast with the kids and personally bring them to school before going to the office," he adds.

A few years ago, Dodo underwent a kidney transplant which changed the way he goes about his daily activities. To minimize the risk of infection, he had to radically limit his movement. The resourceful executive started to look at solutions that would allow him to continue to manage and control the various aspects of his life. This led him to discover the BPI Express Online Banking service.

"I tried BPI Express Online so that I could handle my banking needs, even if I was prevented from going to public places. Since then, I've been able to handle my finances quite well with this very convenient and secure service," Dodo enthuses.

Through the Online scheme, he is able to access his BPI accounts through the Internet, whether at home or in the office and at his own time. With this hassle free online banking service, he is able to ensure on-time payment of his bills on a regular schedule that he sets. Now that he does not have to worry about overlooking payment deadlines. And since his payroll also goes through BPI, Dodo is able to manage fund transfers from one account to another, from savings to checking and vice versa, without having to go to the bank. Aside from these, he also avails of the prepaid reloading service for his children's cell phones.

DODO Reyes with family

"BPI Express Online is very convenient, very accessible and very user-friendly. Now, I don't have to go to the bank to transact my banking business. It's such a relief not to think of getting to the bank before closing hours. That's why I enjoy the convenience BPI Express Online gives me," Dodo attests.

Making the most of time is tantamount to living life to its fullest potential. This is especially true for one who has a particularly hectic schedule and with a health condition to consider.

Dodo observes, "Everything has become so fast and it has really become a stressful world. And to me, time is very important so I am always on the lookout for shortcuts and more convenient ways of doing things; if I find one, I would eventually try it and if it works, I'll use it."

Despite his regularly jam-packed schedule, BPI Express World helps Dodo have time for other important things.

"Now that my son has started to play for La Salle's Midget team, I enjoy watching their basketball games," says this basketball enthusiast.

He lets us in on his secret to managing his time.

"I leave the office in the office. Very rarely would I bring work home because I'd like to think that I spend an equal amount of time with my family and with work. I live by one of my principles in life which is 'you work to live, not live to work.'"

Highly satisfied with BPI Express Online service, Dodo is currently exploring the BPI Trade link on Express Online which allows him to invest in stock market or in fixed income securities, get access to live, real-time information and monitor market movements.

So premium, you get

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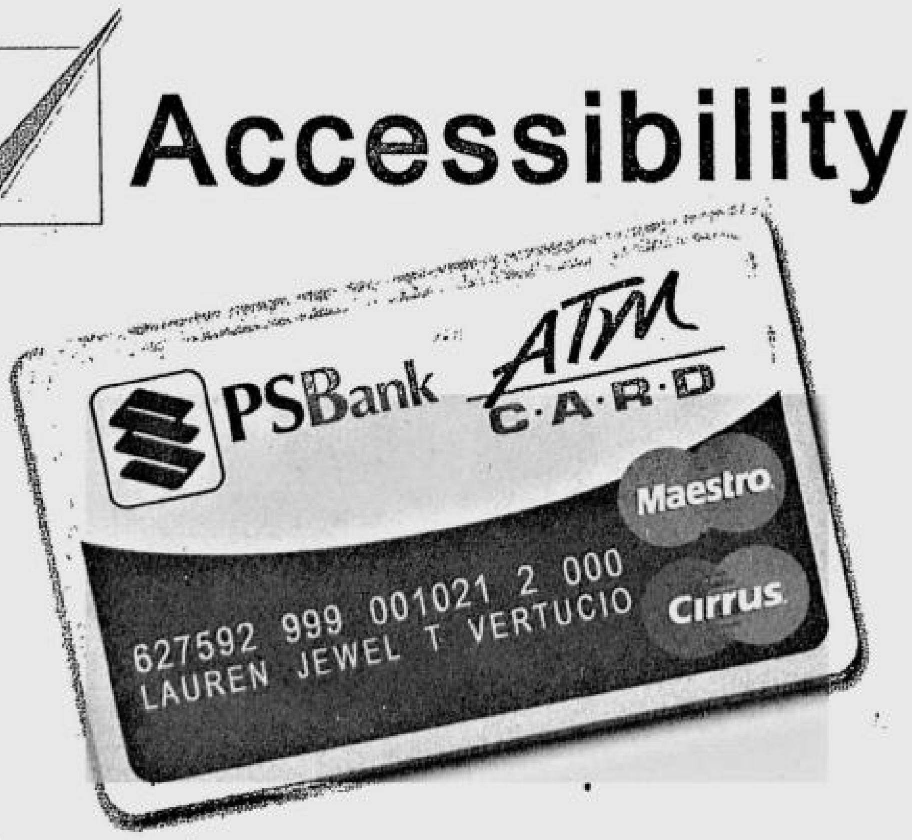

Learn to set up your own realty office

PUTTING up a realty office is often the best approach to becoming a successful real estate broker.

The advantage of this crucial first step is that, even with a relatively small startup capital, the investor is able to gain valuable knowledge and experience without the risk of losing large amounts of money.

This also gives the investor the opportunity to learn from veteran realty practitioners the different areas of a real estate business such as property management, leasing, financing, build-and-sell development, and other important areas in the real estate business, which can all lead to a financially-rewarding venture that would generate even more capital.

In line with this approach, the Urban Institute of Real Estate will conduct a seminar entitled "How to Start and Manage a Successful Realty Office" on Oct. 6, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Benavidez cor. Trasierra Sts., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Topics also included in the seminar are: sources and how to secure properties for selling; preparation of the required documents; requirements for entitlement to commissions; how to safeguard your commission; how to start and close a transaction; sales organizational structures; sales personnel recruitment techniques; training programs; advancement and career path programs; commission structures, awards and other incentives; how to do real estate networking; real estate associations; franchising; business operations; real estate brokerage, terminologies, definition of real estate professionals, qualifications and licensing requirements; subjects covered in the licensing examination; penalties for illegal practice, duties of a professional to his clients, and other relevant topics.

For reservation details and registration, interested parties may call 681-0928 or email at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Filipina shines in Ms America pageant and trade show

By Rita Villadiego
Contributor

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey—Amid the bustle and glitz at the recent Ms America pageant and trade show, a Filipina stood out. Dressed in a pink and black suit, vivacious Cara Margarita Arevalo, CEO of Georgetown & Co., talks gently to a client who wants to buy a white stylish shawl.

"This is the newest style. It's nice to wear with your gown," says Cara. With her bright smile and charming looks, she attracts clients naturally who came to the show to buy Georgetown's fabulous jewelry, usually made from Austrian crystals, colorful accessories, trendy bags, cool and feminine dresses, and the finest, classic suits from Paris. She talks with finesse and doesn't believe in hard sell because she says the quality of her products speak for itself.

"I like to interact with elegant, affluent women. What I like most about this show is, the people are not only beautiful. They actually have substance," says Cara who has been showcasing her products at the trade show for five years now.

Cara took over the family-owned company in 1999 at the age of 24 years old.

"The best decision I made was outsourcing imported products from Canada, Europe, including France. It was a nice balance in international buying, and specializing in style," says Cara.

Georgetown's turnaround is remarkable. Caroll and Reyes Arevalo, parents of Cara, started the company in the late 80's. They invested $15,000 to buy and sell accessories. Reyes Arevalo, a former Jordan Embassy staff, joined a series of gift shows in New York with his wife, who used to work as a manager in the USA Today newspaper. At age 10, Cara started helping in the family business. Her family was the curator for its Philippine made accessories in Europe like Berlin, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Austria. In the 90's, they redeveloped and branded their wares which were well received by the British Isles, like Cayman Islands, Jamaica and Bermuda.

Through hard work and perseverance, Cara made the business lucrative. It grew to a multi-million dollar business with an annual profit of 40 percent. They set up a showroom in Washington, DC and at the Holiday Inn, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, catering to wholesale and retail clients. Cara usually conducts trade shows in five-star hotels every week where well-heeled consumers go. Her hotel shows capture the season's biggest trends with her creatively-designed and sexy clothes.

CARA AREVALO: I like to interact with elegant, affluent women. What I like most about this show is, the people are not only beautiful. They actually have substance.

Cara likens her business to a "child."

"I'm feeding and feeding it and it grows bigger," she says. At the trade show, Cara wrapped silver card holders and lipstick boxes engraved with Ms America crown in colorful paper and put it on display as buyers flocked to their booth. The souvenirs, and the fashion jewelry which were selling hot were customized in factories in Boston and Rhode Island where Georgetown has special business contracts. Her shawls, tempered with soft silky fabric, were also popular. Cara was the only trade exhibitor who joined the Ms America vibrant parade. She was on top of a red convertible, waving her hands gracefully.

Amid a cooling economy, Cara says this year would be the best year as she recorded a big spike in sales the past months. She sees a further increase in sales this holiday spending season. Staying on top of the fast-moving luxury goods world has never been more challenging for Cara. Most ritzy consumers are bored with the influx of fashion goods and seek more unique, new products. Cara says she sells fresh, modern and quality jewelry, trendy clothes and accessories. Her products on display at the trade show are a spectrum of colors, from pink to blue, white and purple. "I like talking to people who would normally not wear a certain style and make them empowered when their image is revamped. I love it when they came back and they got a lot of compliments from people. She rediscovers her beauty all over again," says Cara. She said since most of her clients are affluent and upper middle class, they have continued to buy her products even if the economy slows down.

Born in Sorsogon, in Bicol, Philippines, Cara migrated to the US when she was three years old to join her mom in San Francisco who was petitioned by the University of California. She began her studies at a nearby Montessori School and attended the prestigious San Francisco Conservatory of Ballet.

She was active in sports and attended the Mount Vernon Equestrian School, attended by affluent families in Fairfax County, the original birthplace George Washington in District of Columbia area.

Her father, a great grandson of Don Juan Martin Arevalo y Requena, a

FILIPINA/ B2-7

Why . . .

From page B2-2

ment Reform Act, for a bid to go thru, there was a need for at least three qualified bidders. If the Comelec needed three qualified bidders to proceed, they would have had a hard time devising criteria to eliminate everyone else except 3 bidders. It is easier to eliminate everyone else except one.

In Phase I, there was only one qualified bidder. In Phase II, the Comelec was surprised that there were two qualified bidders.

Total Information Management's partner was ES and S, which is a leading election systems vendor in the US. It qualified not because of their very extensive experience in the US but because they happened to have done an election in Brazil.

I will discuss the other important amendments in subsequent articles.

Imagine what would happen if the Department of Defense conducts the Armed Forces Modernization bids with these existing flaws inter alia, in the law.

(The author is co-chair of the MAP ICT Committee and President of Systems Sciences Consult Inc. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

be bold.

not bald.

Male Pattern Hair Loss (MPHL) is a medical condition that can be treated. MPHL is the most common form of pattern baldness, affecting about 5% of men by age 20 and about 50% by age 40[1]. Current studies suggest the prevalence of MPHL approaches 87%[1]. MPHL is believed to be caused by the activity of DHT (dihydrotestosterone) in the scalp. Research indicates that by reducing the amount of DHT, further hair loss can be prevented, and in some men hair can be regrown[1]. Today, there is more than one way to treat MPHL. **Your doctor is the best source of information about MPHL treatment.** Don't accept the norm if you can do something about it. Be bold, not bald.

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Philippine Dermatological Society

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* Patients who underwent EARLY PROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT in a clinical study reported improvement with their appearance at 5 years, as well as decrease in hair loss and an increase in the amount of hair. (Eur J Dermatol 2002;12:38-49)

1. Libecco JF, Berg Feld WF Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004; 5 (4): 933-940

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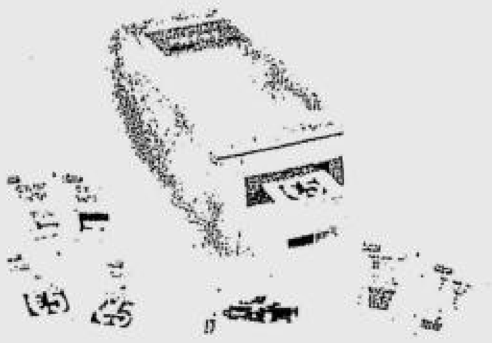

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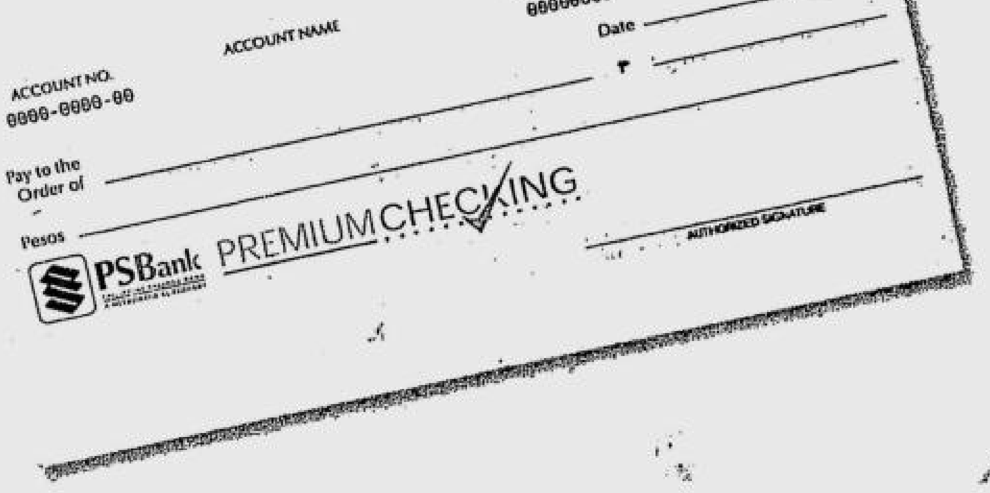


Asian NGOs reap excellence awards

WINNERS ALL. Of 76 entries, eight NGOs were chosen as finalists in the 2004 Asia Pacific NGO Awards.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LIKE other corporations, they are in the business of raising money.

But while others are in it for the profit, these non-government organizations from across Asia devise novel means of raising money to sustain worthy causes, such as helping abused women recover from their trauma, providing senior citizens with a new lease on life and encouraging profitable corporations to invest in community development projects.

Judged the best at what these NGOs do was the Garden of Hope Foundation of Taiwan, which was named "Asia Pacific NGO of the Year" during the 2004 Asia Pacific NGO Awards.

Garden of Hope, headed by chief executive Hui Jung Chui, was organized to provide shelter for women who are victims of abuse, rape, incest and other violent acts.

It bagged the award partly because of its extensive use of the Internet and marketing techniques to raise funds for its cause.

In 2003, it raised over 2.6 Taiwanese dollars through Internet-based direct mail campaigns, mass media broadcasting, charity sales and sale of 10-year bargain-deal resort packages, in partnership with the Red Leaf Hot Springs Resort.

Garden of Hope also uses the Internet to educate the public and prevent further abuse of Taiwanese women.

It operates the Dandelion Treatment Center, a number of Women's Service Centers and the Garden of Hope Resource Library.

Garden of Hope's award was the first of its kind.

The region-wide search was organized by Resource Alliance, a United Kingdom-based organization with expertise in resource mobilization and Citigroup, one of the world's biggest financial services companies, to recognize professionalism and ability in raising funds among organizations in the non-profit sector.

SIMON Collings, Resource Alliance CEO

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

The search was open to NGOs from eight countries with large NGO communities, namely: Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand.

Second-prize winner was Corporation Leftovers Love Sharing Community of South Korea, headed by Minjung Johen.

It raised over 1.3 billion won in 2003 through grants, corporate partnerships and direct mail campaigns to operate its 47 day-care centers throughout South Korea and extend micro-credit support to families in need.

Corporation Leftovers also fields social workers to help children in crisis and provides scholarships and learning opportunities to both children and educators.

Tied at third place were the Hong Kong Society for the Aged, Singapore Children's Society and the Philippine Business for Social Progress.

The Hong Kong Society for the Aged empowers senior citizens become active participants in Hong Kong Society.

It put up the SAGE College in April 2003 to offer a variety of classes to adults over 50 years old. It has already served 2,000 students, and even has a senior student union and a college newspaper.

It raised over $29 million in 2003, through fundraising activities such as the sale of SAGE noodles and the SAGE Charity walk.

The Singapore Children's Society, on the other hand, provides an environment for abused and neglected children, and reaches out to the youth through music and art.

It raised over 4 million Singapore dollars in 2003, through 500 major donors, including Singapore Telecommunications, Tyco Electronics and the Sin Ming Xing Cantonese Opera Center.

Its funds were used to help 3,000 Singaporean children each year, through its nine service centers and phone counseling service.

The Philippine Business for Social Progress, meanwhile, makes use of the resources, expertise and networks of its corporate members to implement poverty alleviation programs.

THE GARDEN of Hope Foundation was named "Asia Pacific NGO of the Year."

Completing the list of finalists are the Shelter Home for Children of Malaysia, Foundation for Child Development Thailand and Institut Dayakologi of Indonesia.

These NGOs made it to the final round of the search, besting more than 60 other entries, due to their good management, transparency, accountability and strategic approach to raising funds.

Organizations with political and religious purposes were excluded from the search.

Simon Collings, Resource Alliance CEO, said that by holding the NGO Awards, the sector could agree on a standard, a benchmark of good practice among the non-profit firms.

"The potential role of civil society in helping to resolve the many social and environmental problems we face in the world is becoming increasingly recognized. We have a lot of work to do, though, to enhance the capacity of the non-profit sector if it is to live up to this role," Collings said.

"Management, planning, program delivery and financial sustainability are all key areas, which need to be strengthened," he added.

But as demonstrated by the eight finalists, the non-profit sector is well on its way to getting the hard work done.

Love of sports turns into an active venture

BUILDING a successful franchise is no easy task. But with his passion and hard work, Catjoe Tayag, the franchisee of Toby's Sports Arena in SM City Pampanga, seems to have done it effortlessly.

It all started with Catjoe's fascination over sports, and it was this same interest that lured him to get into the business. During his earlier years, he was into swimming, cycling, mountain climbing, golf and badminton. But his favorite sport was and will always be tennis. Catjoe took after his father Renato D. Tayag, a well-known tennis player who was the Philippine Junior Tennis Champion in 1933. At the age of 10 years, Catjoe was already exposed to the sport having watched his father play the game everyday.

Fresh from college in 1981, where he graduated from the University of the Philippines in Clark, Pampanga, Catjoe realized there was a big opportunity in the racquet stringing business, as they would always have to travel to Clark to have their racquets strung. He bought a stringing machine and placed it in their family owned El Rancho Tennis Club and soon after, people from as far as Floridablanca, Magalang, San Fernando, and Guagua came just to have their racquets strung.

With his knowledge in tennis and growing contacts in the industry, Catjoe went into the sports retailing business selling tennis accessories from the back of his Isuzu Gemini diesel car. While searching for other sports accessories to sell, he found himself dealing with Jojo and Bobby Claudio of Toby's Sports. Upon realizing that he had a solid lineup of merchandise, Catjoe opened a sports shop of his own in February 1986 and named it Cj's Sports Shop. Later on, he went on to become the president of the Pampanga Golfer's Association in 2002.

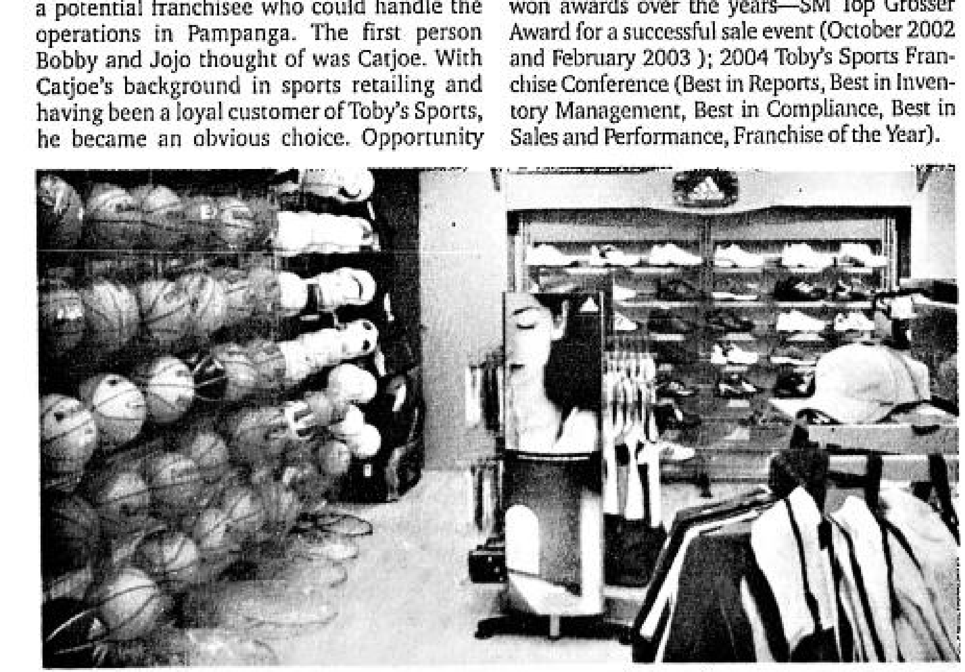
Meanwhile, Toby's Sports got a prime location to set up a store in SM City Pampanga. Toby's Sports Franchise Inc. was scouting for a potential franchisee who could handle the operations in Pampanga. The first person Bobby and Jojo thought of was Catjoe. With Catjoe's background in sports retailing and having been a loyal customer of Toby's Sports, he became an obvious choice. Opportunity knocks only once, although Catjoe wanted to grab it quickly, it was not that easy, since he felt that he wasn't financially prepared. After many sleepless nights, he decided to sell some of his properties and everything else he could think of just to achieve his dream of owning a big sports store. On Nov. 11, 2000, Catjoe finally opened the first Toby's at SM City Pampanga. Located at the ground floor of the main building, it had an area of 49.3 sq.m. with a staff of six.

ACQUET
RINGING
YONEX

CATJOE Tayag

Today, nearly four years later, Catjoe's franchise has grown tremendously. Due to the success of his operations, his store has been moved to a better location inside SM City Pampanga and has been converted into a large sale concept store called Toby's Sports Arena—the first of its kind outside Metro Manila.

Toby's Sports Arena in SM City Pampanga has won awards over the years—SM Top Grosser Award for a successful sale event (October 2002 and February 2003); 2004 Toby's Sports Franchise Conference (Best in Reports, Best in Inventory Management, Best in Compliance, Best in Sales and Performance, Franchise of the Year).



TOBY'S Sports Arena in SM City Pampanga has won awards over the years.

Sony showroom: Paradise for gadget lovers

By Raquel P. Gomez

ON top of a table, a couple of Sony's AIBO robotic dogs amuse a crowd with their dog-like moves and tricks. Lounged in a relaxing couch, an old man relives the glory of knights in shining armors through the wide flatscreen monitor. And in a floor dedicated to computers, digital cameras and other entertaining digital gadgets, a young man listens to an MP3 while tinkering with a notebook.

Welcome to Sony Building and showroom in Ginza, Tokyo. The eight floors of the building are a showcase of the latest Sony products and is the perfect paradise for techies, and gadget enthusiasts.

The latest product information and queries are handled in a booth filled with flat and touch screen monitors in the first floor.

The second floor is dedicated to Sony's notebook range VAIO, walkmans, MP3 players, digital cameras, accessories.

Every section of the third floor is a dream home theater for every household with all the big Sony WEGA TVs. LCD TVs filling the walls and corners.

A subfloor is a convenient shop that sells domestic and foreign Sony products. Here you can find and buy VAIO notebooks with English keyboard, digital cameras, and other Sony products and computer accessories and peripherals at duty free prices.

THE EIGHT floors of the Sony Building are a showcase of its latest products.

The full range of Sony's QUALIA merchandise are comfortably ensconced in the fourth floor, while Sony network services and e-commerce are located in the fifth floor. Here, customers can also use booths with computers that offer info on Sony products.

A big room in the sixth floor serves as a customer service room where visitors and tourists can access information and demonstration on products on their own language.

The showroom on the seventh floor is called the Ginza Playstation. The room undeniably rouses the senses with all the sounds, lights, images and excitement from rows of Sony playstations where young Japanese huddle and play for hours.

The Sony building also houses chic bars and restaurants for visitors who go hungry after a tour. But the most interesting memory a visitor—who didn't buy anything—could bring home is a photo taken with the BMW prominently displayed on the second floor. The prestige and elegance the car somehow endows on the place truly caps a Sony showroom visit.

New generation Handycam unveiled

TOKYO—In a bid to gain the lead in developing products compliant with the high definition (HD) standard of television broadcast, electronics giant Sony unveiled the world's first high definition format personal camcorder, the HDR-FX1.

Launched by Sony Electronics Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd., the sleek and portable HDR-FX1 is the latest addition to Sony's Handycam family aimed at both personal and professional use.

The HDR-FX1 records and plays back through the 1080i scanning lines, the most widely used high definition specifications in HD broadcast, the new standard of TV broadcast in Japan and elsewhere in the world.

SEAP's managing director Masahiro Tamura says the introduction of HDR-FX1 will "revolutionize the camcorder industry and accelerate the adoption of high definition format" in the region.

Since Sony introduced the first Handycam in 1985, the company has become the leader in the camcorder market in Asia Pacific with 50 percent of the market share.

In the video camera and digital market in Europe, North America and Japan, Sony captured 40 percent with 17.5 million units sold in 2004.

According to Tamura, Sony sees tremendous growth for the camcorder market in the Asia Pacific region, which has a population of over 3 billion people.

"With the increasing affluence of consumers and faster adoption of digital technology in this region, we are very positive about the growth of Handycam. We are confident of achieving positive double-digit growth for Handycam in this region in this fiscal year."

The debut of HD technology is the most significant revolution that has happened to the history of television broadcast 50 years after color broadcast started. With the US pioneering digital and high definition television broadcast in 1998, the worldwide trend in TV broadcasting is moving toward high definition.

Aside from the US, Japan, Europe, Australia, and Korea are now doing TV broadcasts in HD standard.

Videos and images recorded by the HDR-FX1 are widescreen in format and have the clearest and smoothest resolution of 1440 pixels x 1080 lines compared to conventional DV format of 720 pixels x 480 lines seen on standard TV.

With such a high-resolution video recording and employing the Carl Zeiss Vario-Sonar T lens, the HDR-FX1 can actually make home movies look like a professionally shot film.

To be commercially released in November, the HDR-FX1 will fetch an initial price of $4,000 to $4,500.

Citigroup goes into outsourcing in RP, to create jobs

CITIGROUP, the world's largest financial services organization, strengthened its presence in the country with the opening of a Business Process Outsourcing Center in the Philippines.

Wholly-owned subsidiary Crescent Services Pte. Limited will be providing business process outsourcing, call center and other IT and IT-enabled services to Consumer Group operations of various Citibank and Citigroup entities around the globe.

Crescent Services is expected to add significant fresh employment opportunities to the country as well as bring in valuable foreign exchange through its foreign currency earnings from Citigroup businesses globally.

Incorporated in Singapore, Crescent Services opened its first operational branch in Makati, after securing approvals from the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority and Bureau of Internal Revenue.

In its first phase of operations, Crescent Services will have a capacity for 450 seats boasting of state-of-the-art technology using the latest in voice telephony. Its offices are also equipped with top-of-the-line training resources.

According to Citibank Phils. country business manager for Global Consumer Group Nina Aguas, the Philippines has always been an important business hub for Citigroup, where it has been a key industry player for the last 102 years: "Crescent Services represents our latest investment in the country, and shows that we are committed to doing business in the Philippines for a long-term."

Crescent Services

LES Matheson, Nina Aguas, Anand Chopra, Ashok Vaswani, and James Hunt.

Anand Chopra, president and CEO of Crescent Services, said the Philippines was a natural choice: "Citigroup was keen to establish a regional business process outsourcing and call center facility, because of the key advantages that the country offers, such as the large availability of a highly-educated and English-speaking work-force and robust infrastructure."

He further added that the establishment of a business process outsourcing subsidiary is an integral part of Citigroup's overall business strategy to create global Centers of Excellence that provide superior quality and consistent customer experience.

For its first client, Crescent Services is looking at Citibank Australia.

Eventually, the Philippine office will service Citigroup entities around the world by providing business process outsourcing and IT-enabled services like call centers, credit operations, back-office operations, primarily to the Consumer Group.

Citigroup (NYSE: C), the preeminent global financial services company has some 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 100 countries, providing consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, insurance, securities brokerage and asset management. Major brand names under Citigroup's trademark red umbrella include Citibank, CitiFinancial, Primerica, Smith Barney, Banamex and Travelers Life and Annuity. Additional information may be found at www.citigroup.com

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Editor **Aries Espinosa**

Sandoz: The return of a trusted brand

SANDOZ, which merged with Ciba-Geigy in 1996 to form Novartis, returns in the Philippines as a world-class generics brand.

The Swiss-based pharmaceutical company decided to consolidate its generics operations, known as Novartis Generics, under the Sandoz brand. The Sandoz brand of generics was launched Aug. 12 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

"For us it is indeed great to welcome the return of Sandoz, a Novartis company. For you, your patients, and all the customers that we serve, we assure you that the return of Sandoz will be equally great," said Roswald Quizon, country manager of Sandoz in the Philippines.

"Novartis decided the return of Sandoz to unify the various Novartis generic companies all over the world that are using various corporate names, names that they have been using prior to the Novartis merger in 1996. So, today all of these companies are unified under the global brand Sandoz, a name you are very familiar with," he added.

SANDOZ country manager Roswald Quizon during the launch of the Sandoz brand of generics.

Sandoz, a global provider of off-patent and patent-free pharmaceuticals operates in 120 countries and has 13,000 employees.

In the Philippines, Novartis guarantees that the change of name from Biochemie to Sandoz will neither change the form of the enterprise nor the principal place of business. The company assures consumers and other partners in the healthcare business that the same products that they have trusted and prescribed over the years will be constantly available for the health and well being of their patients.

"From today, we would like to inform you all that here in the Philippines, all Biochemie products like the antituberculosis, antibiotics, and the antidiabetic products will be relabeled gradually to adopt the new global Sandoz design," said Quizon.

The corporate brand launch coincides with the introduction of a new Sandoz brand of Co-amoxiclav made available at half the price of the leading brand.

Dealing with local governments through e-Local Governance

E-LOCAL Governance is a means to faster service to city or municipal residents, businessmen and employees of a local government. It is public service through electronic communications or through the information communication technology (ICT). It is also a way of managing the day-to-day affairs of the city or municipality.

The Roundtable Forum on e-Local Governance will be held to discuss the benefits of e-Local Governance. It will review related policies, share lessons and experiences and show business-to-business linkages through the forum. This will be held on Sept. 30 at Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan. The Philippine Communication Centrum Foundation (PCCF), under the auspices of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication (AIJC), with the cooperation of Unesco National Commission, will host this roundtable forum.

To the residents of a city or municipality, e-Local Governance means obtaining permits and clearances online, paying taxes, knowing the services in the health center, the day care center, and the barangay justice system. It is also a means of knowing what job opportunities are available.

A businessman may learn about investment opportunities through the local government website. Links or networking may also be established with other businesses in the community. Permits and clearances may be obtained online. Knowing the status of your business transactions is another function of e-Local governance.

To the employees of the city/municipality, the administrative, financial or executive work may be done through computer programs developed by solutions providers. In-service trainings and seminars may be accessed, and employee benefits from GSIS, BIR, Pag-Ibig and Philhealth may be obtained online. Transactions with these agencies may already be done online..

For more information, call the forum secretariat at 725-4227 or 727-6799 or e-mail aijcmla@info.com.ph.

Life Values 1st popularizes Filipino family ideals

FIRST Life reintroduces the Life Values 1st photo contest on its second year with the focus on Filipino family ideals this time. With the conviction that planning for a better tomorrow is the most eloquent expression of love for the family, the contest aims to reflect the impact and inspiration of life insurance on how Filipinos selflessly take care of their dear ones.

Revolving around the theme "Life Values 1st,", First Life has tied up with Good Housekeeping by opening the contest to all its Metro Manila/NCR readers for September. Amateur and professional photographers are welcome to send non-winning and unpublished entries up to a maximum of three 3x5" photos each.

The grand prize winner will take home P15,000 in cash while the next top five frontrunners will receive P5,000 each. In addition, all winners will receive free subscriptions of Good Housekeeping magazine. The 12 most catching photos will be put on display at the 4/F SM Megamall bridgeway from Nov. 11 to 17.

The Life Values 1st photo contest is the company's unique way of presenting a richer and more colorful existence by pounding on the importance of life insurance through the vivid images of tradition and spirit that are characteristic of Filipinos. First Life is a leading provider of proudly Filipino world-class life insurance products that cater to the changing needs of families.

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WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SERIES FROM POLAR

Gold's Gym trainer Alfred Manguiat (left) tests on a spinning bike the new Polar Weight Management Series, the latest innovative product from Polar of Finland that also invented the Polar Heart Rate Monitor, now popular among athletes who find the gadget as a convenient 'partner' in monitoring their workouts. An easy-to-wear wristwatch like its predecessor, the new Polar Weight Management Series comes in four models: Polar WM41, Polar WM22, Polar WM21, and Polar WM42. These are designed to cover both nutrition and exercise habits of users, giving them personal recommendations for daily calorie intake and weekly exercise. Aside from a comprehensive guide and an extensive exercise/activity and nutrition planner, users can also get free access to Polar's Personal Trainer on its website. Shown assisting Manguiat is Polar product supervisor Marne Escotido. The Polar Weight Management Series, exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Sports Resources Inc, is now available at Toby's Sports and Hobbies, The Fitness Shop, and Gold's Gym Body Shop. For inquiries, call 671-1565.

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An icon rich in automotive excellence and tradition is due to stir up excitement in the local automotive industry with the entry of Land Rover, the world's premier four-wheel drive vehicle. The rugged yet classy designed Land Rover is the official transportation of the British Royal Army and is approved as one of the official carriers of the House of Windsor. Shown during a recent exclusive distribution signing contract held at the Land Rover facility in the United Kingdom is Henry Robinson (left), director, Guava International UK and Wellington C. Soong, chair and president, Land Rover Philippines Motors Inc (LRPhils Motors Inc). LRPhils is the exclusive Philippine distributor of all Land Rover variants: the Range Rover, Discovery, Freelander and the Defender. For inquiries, call 897-8888, 633-3976 or e-mail sales@landroverphils com.

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Shinsung Engineering & Construction, doing the rehabilitation of the Monkayo-Tagum Road in Davao City, recently bought 10 brand new Caterpillar machines and two Cat Gensets from Monark, the true partner in progress. Shown, from left, are Monark's Julie Keng, marketing manager and Alex Yu, manager, turning over the ceremonial key to Shinsung's Kim Kyung Bae, heavy equipment manager and Rafael Sarenas, consultant. Also shown is Eric Visaya (right), Monark sales manager handling CAT sales. For inquiries, call Eric at 0920-9064863 or e-mail ecvisaya@monark.com.

PLDT LAUDS PACQUIAO

PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan, right, congratulates Manny Pacquiao, center, for proving himself a true Filipino hero after his fight with Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez. PLDT Global recently featured Pacquiao in its Filipino Heroes Series of prepaid phone cards sold in the United States. Also shown are, from left, PLDT Global president Al S. Panlilio, Rod Nazario, Pacquiao's manager, and Murad Muhammad, Pacquiao's promoter.

CALTEX DELO'S 2004 SPORT TRUCK & CUSTOM CAR SHOW

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This year's presentation by Caltex Philippines of the 2004 Caltex Delo Sport Truck & Custom Car Show promises to be the biggest and most anticipated last quarter motoring event. For the first time, the annual show will now include super motorbikes and specialty bicycles as part of its regular event highlights. The Bike Show will have its own series of displays, bike show competition, seminars and other unique features. The 5-day show is all ready to unfold from Sept. 29 to Oct. 3 at the Megatrade Hall of SM Megamall B, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Organized by TradeShow International Inc (TSI), the motor racing-inspired 2004 Caltex Delo Sport Truck & Custom Car Show has become the mecca for sport truck, custom car and automotive racing enthusiasts bringing together under one roof the most wildly modified sport trucks, SUVs, custom cars and pick-ups in the country. This year, more than 70 well-prepared vehicles and motorbikes will be on hand to compete for class honors and, ultimately, for the much-coveted Best of Show award. The show is presented by Caltex Delo with Ambi Pur as Gold sponsors and Top Gear magazine as major sponsor. Other sponsors include Exo Armoring, Sunrise Holiday Concepts, 105.1 Crossover, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT, Wave 89.9, 103.5 K-Lite, Jam 88.3, Infodyne, www.yehey.com, Motorcycle Philippines, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Buy & Sell, Vantage Consulting & Solutions Inc, Sky Star, Samsung, Taytan Industrial Corp and Citibank. For inquiries, call the secretariat at 671-8381 or 671-8382. Shown after the contract signing, at left, is Jean Ernest Maningo, OIC lubricants marketing manager and Mariles Villar, TSI vice president.

Investing in real estate

REAL estate investing is one investment area that yields many opportunities and long financial security. However, because of the broad, diverse and changing intricacies and techniques of real estate, many newcomers suffer business failure due to lack of information and general experience.

In order to provide helpful guidelines to beginning and prospective real estate investors, dealers, developers and realty professionals, a seminar on "Investing in Real Estate" will be conducted by the Urban Institute of Real Estate on Monday, Oct. 2, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center, Benavidez corner Trasierra Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

The four-hour lecture will cover the different opportunities and techniques in real estate investments that include the pros and cons of the business such as investing in vacant land, buy and sell or lease, build and sell, rehabilitation of foreclosed and damaged properties, master leasing, converting apartments to townhouses, and developing vacant/raw lands and other areas of business in real estate.

During the succeeding days, seminars will also be held on other topics that can be attended separately as follows: Oct. 4-Property Development an HLURB Rules and Regulations; Oct. 5-Property Management and Real Estate Appraisal; Oct. 6-How to Start and Manage a Successful Realty Office; Oct. 7-Real Estate Taxation, and Oct. 8-Joint Ventures and Syndication for Real Estate Projects.

The Urban Institute will also conduct a Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar (CRES) and review for the forthcoming broker's licensure examination starting Oct. 9 for the Saturday Section and Oct. 12 for the Tuesday Section.

Lecturers are lawyer Dennis Tablizo, noted land law mentor and engineer Enrico S. Cruz, licensed real estate consultant, broker and appraiser and erstwhile real estate fellow, who has more than three decades of working experience in engineering, construction, education and real estate development.

For particulars, interested parties can call Urban Institute at 681-0928 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Mouthwatering moon cake and tea

SHANGHAI Bistro, a restaurant famous for fusing the culinary traditions of Shanghai and Hong Kong, is celebrating the Moon Cake Festival until Sept. 28. Baked to perfection by award-winning Chinese chefs, Shanghai Bistro's moon cake is made from the finest lotus cream and egg yolk brought in straight from China.

Four pieces of moon cake made from white lotus cream and with two egg yolk go for P480/box, while four pieces made from red lotus cream with two egg yolk cost P450/box. Six smaller pieces made from red lotus cream with one egg yolk sell for P350/box.

Shanghai Bistro's choicest tea varieties go best with these delectable treats. Lung Chin Green Tea is available at P300/can and Ti Kwan Yin, Jasmine Poli and Oolong Teas at P250/can.

For every purchase of five boxes of moon cake, customers get a free can of Shanghai Bistro tea. Customers in the Makati and Quezon City areas are entitled to free delivery for every purchase of 10 boxes of moon cake. Taste the best Shanghai Bistro. Call 892-8870 and 892-8872 in Makati and 687-7103 and 687-1861 in Quezon City for orders.

Shanghai Bistro is located at the 3rd floor of the Paseo Center in Makati and at Eastwood City Walk 2 in Quezon City.

Filipina shines

From page B2-3

Spaniard assigned as Political Governor in the Philippines in 1864, Reyes A. Arevalo, is from San Fernando, Masbate, Philippines. Her matriarchal grandmother—Caridad Salas—was a former congresswoman of Bicol.

At 13, Cara became a regular exhibitor staff member at the prestigious Miss America Trade Show. After finishing high school, she worked with Calvin Klein-Asia, as head of marketing in the Philippines.

Looking back in the past, Cara says she made her worst business decision when she hired some people and trusted them so much but they took advantage of her kindness. "I can't fire people. That's why some people took advantage of me," she said. Her plan in the future is to open more wholesale and retail shops in New Jersey. Her short-term plan is to diversify into a new business—caring for seniors—by building a senior elderly care home, in New Jersey next year.

A staunch supporter of free trade, Cara says when products from China flooded the US market, it was a golden opportunity for her business to buy the materials here at a realistic, cheaper price. "It makes easier for me. I could get products here without buying it in China," says Cara.

In this highly-competitive fashion market, Cara says high quality products survive. "I have the products and services which are number one. Making money is a by product of what I love to do, " she says.

As a hands-on manager, she checks all her inventories, studies her craft and checks all the orders, and, suggests designs to factories. She talks and listens to her clients and designs her own shows.

Cara gets her satisfaction when clients are happy with her products.

"I bought jewelry. It's great. It's bright. The purses are also gorgeous. The clothes are the best. I've been coming back to this shop for five years now. I just bought a black shawl, three purses and a watch," says Marie Reno, a buyer from Seattle, Washington who attended the Ms America pageant and the trade show.

Next year, Cara plans to hold regular seminars to develop the skills of woman entrepreneurs.

"My advice to entrepreneurs is to start a business that is closer to your heart. You have to follow something you're naturally good at. You have to be passionate if you want to sell your products . You have to believe, your products will be a success. A true entrepreneur is inspired by her own products, " says Cara.

'Little America' Baguio is biggest call center outside Metro Manila

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—This city has been known as "Little America" for almost a century. Being the only colonial hill station of the Americans in Asia, Baguio's beginnings had been deeply influenced by Americans. Schools like the Easter and Brent schools were built to teach residents how to write and speak English.

The broadcast media picked up American network signals from the US Armed Forces radio and television network.

As a result, Baguio residents until now have been patronizing country music and American football. They are also known for speaking English like an American.

It is no wonder Baguio was chosen by one of the biggest call center firms as its second area after Metro Manila.

ClientLogic Philippines, which one of the world's largest global call center firms, will formally launch on Sept. 29 its call center facility inside the Baguio City Economic Zone.

It had a soft launching in July this year with 200 seats at the BCEPZ and so far, the response was excellent.

"We are impressed with the communication skills of our employees," says Danilo Sebastian Reyes, director and country manager for ClientLogic Philippines. "We have a fine pool of people here," he says. "Their work attitude is very well. They are ahead in their learning curve."

Reyes says the resort city's "historical affinity" with the Americans contributed to the initial success of their Baguio operations.

He says Baguio's cool weather, which brought the Americans here in the first place, also minimized their cost that would have come from airconditioning.

"It also helped that Baguio is a university town," he says. Baguio's six major universities widened the pool of English-proficient applicants. Reyes said a steady pool is needed for consistent operations.

Baguio Mayor Braulio Yaranon told ClientLogic to give priority to Baguio residents before getting those who went to school here.

Reyes says they plan to expand their Baguio operations and eventually get 1,600 seats.

Right now, operations start from 5 p.m. to noon. The agents work in four shifts (5 p.m. to 2 a.m., 11:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m., 2 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 3 a.m. to noon).

Yaranon says other call center firms also want to locate here.

Reyes says adequate and reliable telecommunication facilities are also required for call center operations outside the city.

ClientLogic Philippines' Baguio facilities are located at the BCEZ, which is more known for housing semiconductor firms.

ClientLogic operates in the United States, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, India, Ireland, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom and the Philippines. It has 19,000 employees worldwide.

ClientLogic's customers include consumer goods manufacturers, leading software providers, Internet service providers, insurance companies, Internet-based retailers, computer equipment manufacturers, publishers and telecom companies.

These include Sony, Microsoft, Earthlink, Logitech, Juno and National Geographic Television.

ClientLogic Philippines' Manila operation is in San Juan and Pasay City where it has about 2,000 call center agents. The company started in December 2000 with only 50 employees.

A call center agent in Baguio says he handles Bell South in Florida and his work is mostly to give assistance on computer operations.

He says sometimes they would get calls from homesick Filipinos in Florida who just wanted to talk to Filipinos and not about their computers. "They talk to us in Filipino but we need to ask our supervisors before we can answer back in Filipino. But more often, we ask them to limit calls on computer assistance because that is our business," he says.

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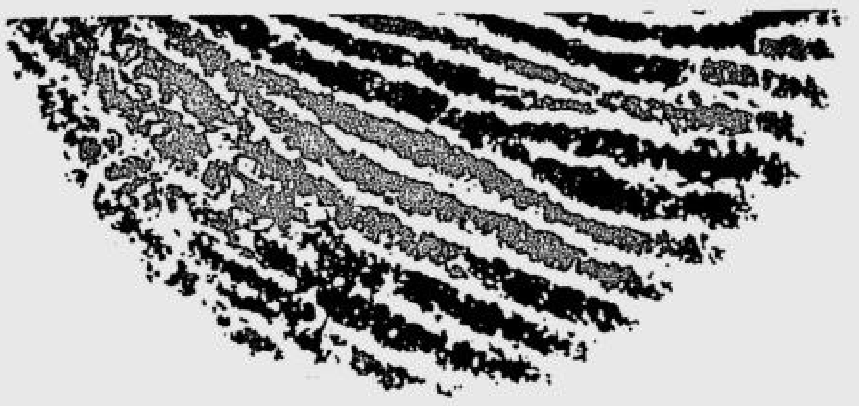

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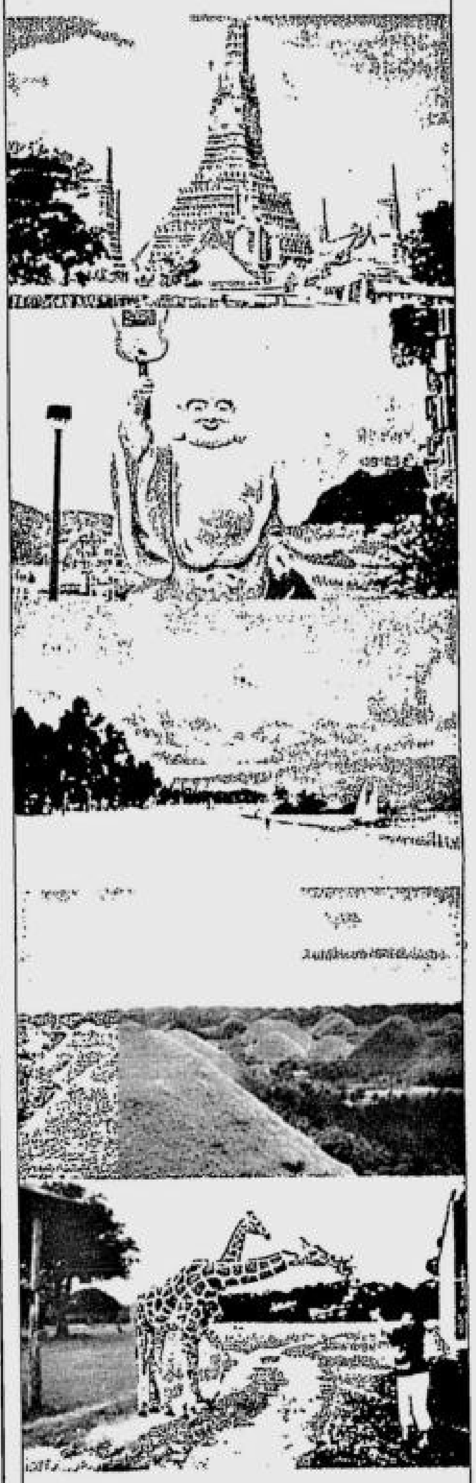

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China to send nursing students to RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CONSTANT stream of nurses and caregivers going abroad to look for greener pastures has been seen as a sign of desperate times in the country.

But education officials from China, currently Asia's hottest economic powerhouse, think of it as proof of a high-quality educational system in the country. So much so that the Chinese government decided to send students to enroll in Philippine schools.

According to the Department of Trade and Industry, a nine-member mission from China that recently visited was very impressed with the quality of nursing and medical education here that they committed to have Chinese teachers and students attend short-term training programs in Philippine schools.

The result of the visit were memoranda of agreement between the International Cooperation Department of China Education Development Group Co.—an agency attached to China's Ministry of Education—and St. Paul University in Manila and Primacare Training and Development Center.

St. Paul Manila offers a four-year nursing course while Primacare is accredited with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and offers the programs that run for a maximum of seven months.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino said the Chinese officials had committed to use the competitive advantage of the Philippine education sector in developing the capabilities of their teachers and students in medicine and nursing.

"This is the first time than an MOU of such kind was signed between the education sectors of the two countries," Aquino said.

He explained that the MOU signed with St. Paul Manila included an agreement for both parties to share academic resources for teaching, research, consultancy, and other related areas.

They will also cooperate and establish a partnership in developing several curricula for nursing students from China.

Aside from that, the Chinese delegation also expressed interest to send Chinese BS Nursing teachers here to enroll in short-term training programs of six to eight months in St. Paul.

Aquino said the Chinese officials chose St. Paul because of its autonomous status and its flexibility to accept Chinese students under the options presented by the Ministry of Education.

The first option was for high school graduates from China to complete a four-year, bachelor's degree course in the science of nursing. Another option is for Chinese students to take up half the course in China and the other half in the Philippines.

On the other hand, the MOU signed with Primacare covers training for Chinese students on caregiver and caretaker/housekeeping courses.

"Aside from the income that will be derived from the increase in enrollment and revenue from tuition fees of the Chinese students, the two institutions also stand to gain income from board and lodging, sale of uniforms, books and other printed materials," Aquino said.

More importantly, he said the agreements would also give the country exposure to the international market as a reliable source of education and training services.

The official urged other educational institutions to realize the huge potential that the Chinese market offered.

Last July, Aquino said the government was exploring ways to tap the huge education services market and promote local universities among business management students in China.

He said there was also a growing demand for foreign programs and business education in the booming education services sector in China.

Quoting data from the Asian Department of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Trade and Industry said in 2002, at least 60,000 students left China to study in other countries.

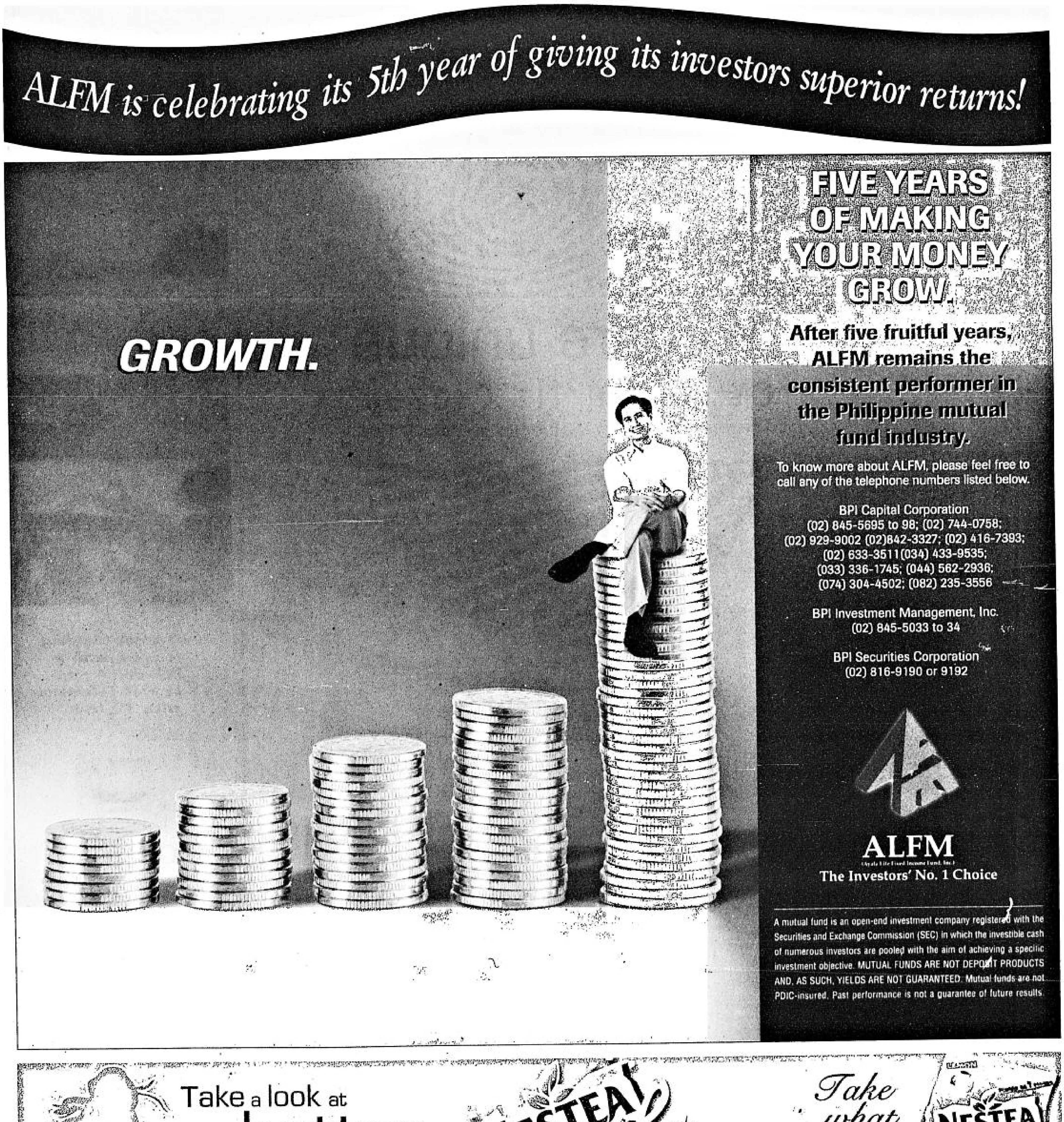
The data show that aside from students in the major Chinese cities like Beijing and Shanghai, there were also youths from provincial cities with populations of 3 million to 5 million who were seeking ways to pursue careers in business.

"Promoting our universities in China will also help sustain the Philippines' promotional efforts in that 1.3-billion-strong market," Aquino said. "We see a huge demand in business education among the Chinese."

He added that targeting the China market also enables local universities to find opportunities to update the country's education industry on the latest trends and technology developments in the sector.

Also, Aquino said China was a potential market for the country's English as Second Language programs considering China's high demand for English language education.

Data from the Chinese government show that last year, 10,000 students were given short-term student visas from the government of Ireland. The United States government issued the same number of visas to Chinese students in 2001 while the United Kingdom issued 17,000 student visas.



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Subsection Editor **Lito B. Zulueta**

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The value of auctions

ALL4ART

Bea Zobel Jr.

WHAT do you feel when you think of an auction? To me, frankly, an auction is something scary. From what I remember in movies, you see people jabbing about with fingers and paddles. If you yawn and stretch your arms... Wham! You have just become the proud owner of seven trucks of albino orangutans! The pace is so fast—you must be on your toes all the time!

It all looks like such a specialized activity that few can master. It seems an alien world to most Filipinos. Hey, a friend of mine explains, however, that there are all kinds of auction-like transactions in many corners of the country. He says that in the ports, for example, the bidding for the metal vats of fish that come off the ships may be secret but every bit as frenetic! This gives me an idea for another column: a visit to a port!

The glamorous world of art auctions is, of course, a somewhat different kettle of fish. One of the most well-known houses that specializes in this field is Sotheby's. Let me tell you about this venerable institution.

Sotheby's was founded by Samuel Baker on March 11, 1744, in London, England. Concentrating first on books, it went on to deal in fine and decorative arts, jewelry and watches. It must say something about the changing values of society that paintings eventually replaced books as the most important items for sale.

After several centuries of success, Sotheby's started to cast around for opportunities in other countries.

The dynamic person behind Sotheby's in the Philippines is Maria Clara "Kim" Acuña Camacho. She used to be a client of Sotheby's in Singapore, so you can say she has seen both sides of the fence.

The well known auction house has a company tradition that it only opens a country office when they find the right person. It is presumably the case with Ms Camacho. Actually "the right person" is an understatement! Ms Camacho's impressive credentials were tailor-made for the job. She studied at some of the best schools in the world: UP, Radcliffe, Harvard, Stanford and the Sorbonne. Having worked in real-estate development and export, she has a wide network of contacts in the business arena.

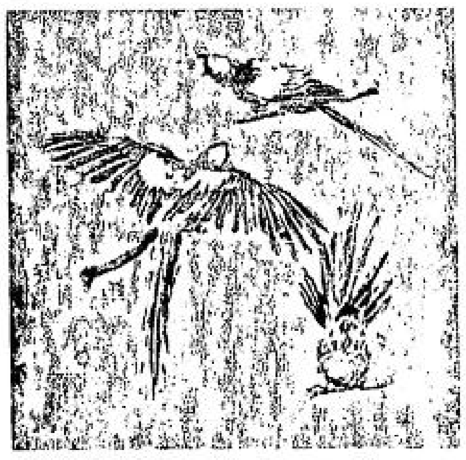
A friend pointed out to me that auction houses like Sotheby's have been accused of promoting the commercialization of the arts. Highly publicized auctions encourage the public to see art simply in monetary terms.

Ms Camacho, however, stresses the service aspect of their work. Before Sotheby's was active in the Philippines, people who wanted to sell pieces in their collection had to fend for themselves.

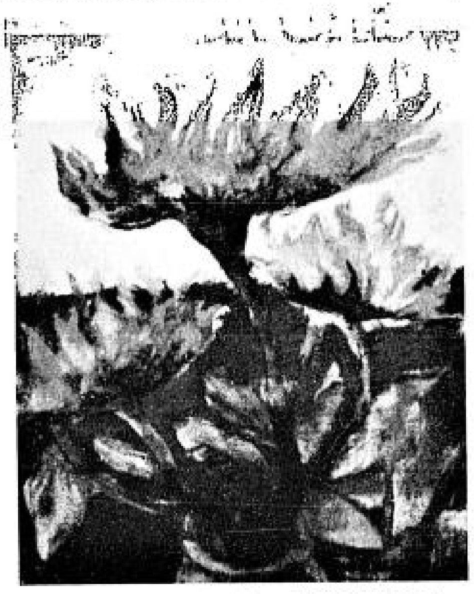
This meant calling up potential clients and making a pitch. This was often an embarrassing and unpleasant experience. Sometimes the seller would become the subject of gossip:

THE VALUE/ C3

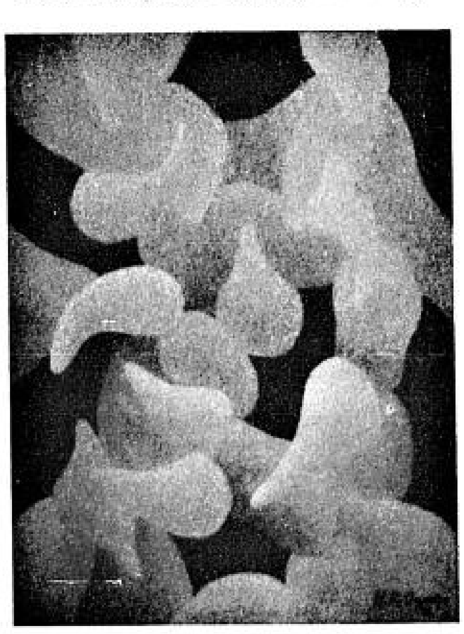
Auctions like Sotheby's introduce Filipino talents to the international world



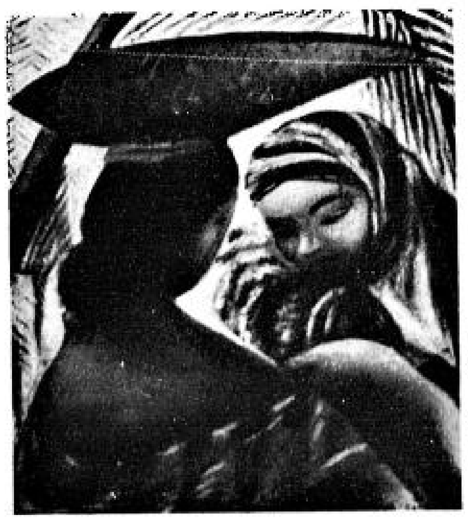
"STUDY of Macaws," by Emmanuel L. Cordova



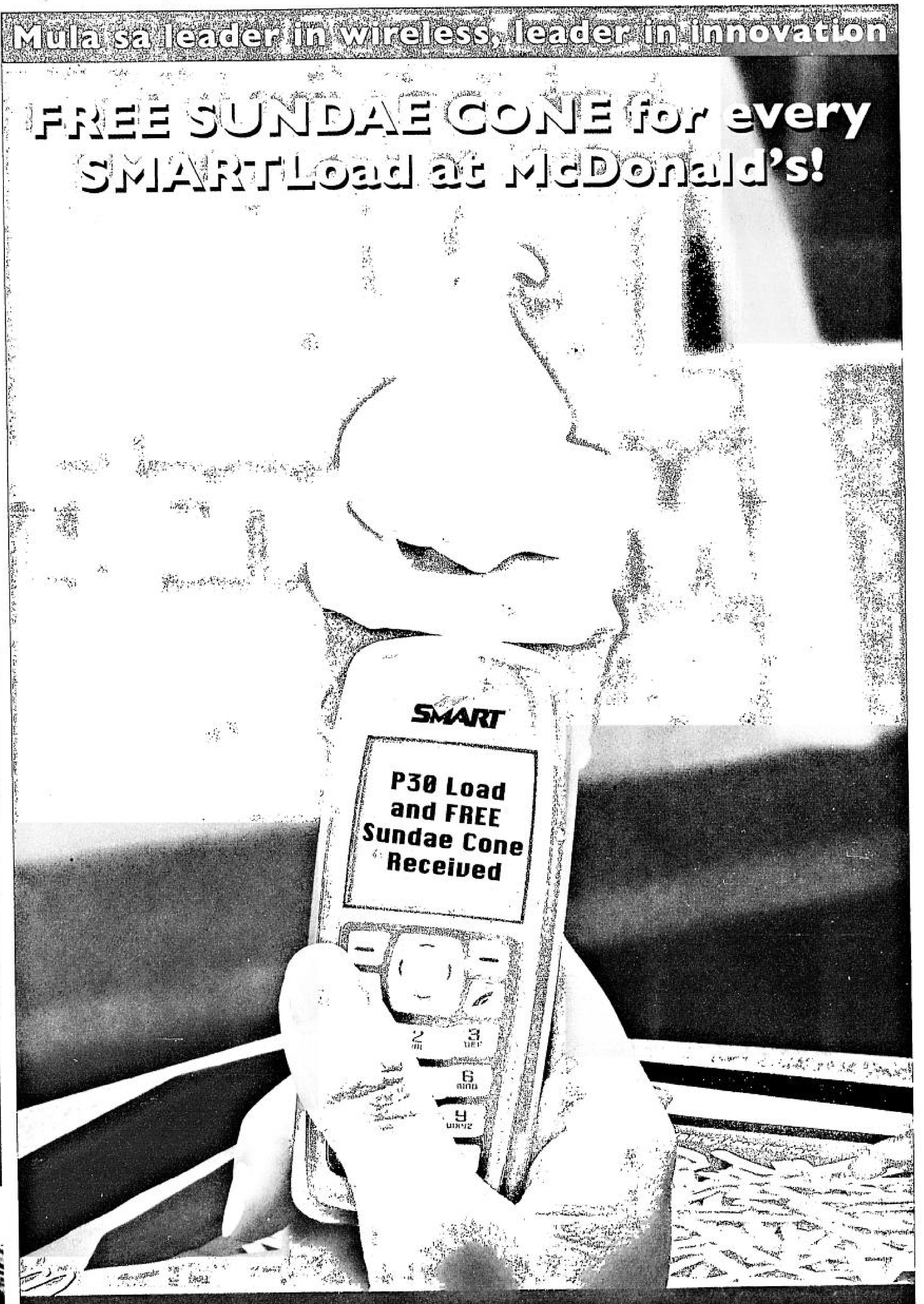
"FLOWER," by Onib Olmedo (1937-1996)



"POTENTIAL Dimension," by Hernando Ruiz Ocampo (1911-1978)



"TWO Ladies," by Nena Saguil (1914-1998)



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QIAO Xuan (Sheng), "The Temple of Ganlusi"

BAI Suzhen (Dan), "The Legend of White Snake"

YU Ji (Dan), "Farewell My Concubine"

Little messengers of culture

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE BEIJING Opera, that age-old repertoire, is already a national treasure of China. Though its origin is said to be as old as traditional Chinese culture, it has survived relatively intact through the millenniums.

By means of plastic art, this ancient Oriental art form seeks truth, virtue and beauty in the human condition, the world, and beyond, as with Western theater. There are differences in style and technique, though, in terms of presentation and representation—and Westernized Filipino audiences are well-advised to get an inkling of these nuances so as to fully enjoy what unfolds before their eyes.

The Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China informs us: "The role types of Beijing Opera include *sheng* (male), *dan* (female), *jing* (painted face, male), and *chou* (clown, male or female), as well as various other roles.

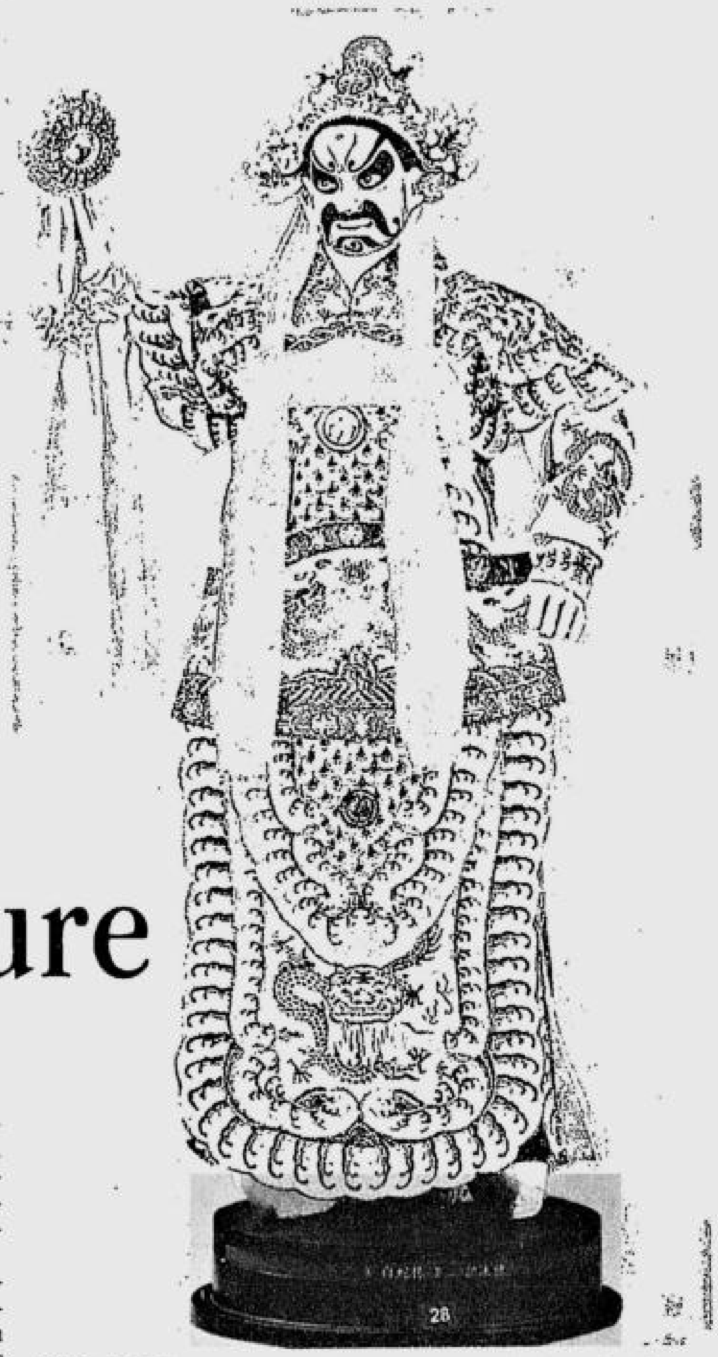
"The four main techniques (singing, dialogue and monologue, stylized action and acrobatic fighting) and the five methods (movements of hands, eyes, body, gesture and steps) constitute the synthesis employed by Beijing Opera to present its rich and diversified characters.

"Adornments and ornaments like crowns, helmets, hats and scarves are professionally elaborated, while the costumes and their accessories as well as weapons have been uniquely designed."

Story through gesture

This is being showcased in the touring exhibit "Characters in Beijing Opera," until Oct. 3 at the Benito Cu Uy Gam Hall of the Kaisa-Angelo King Heritage Center, Anda cor Cabildo Sts. (at the back of Manila Cathedral), Intramuros, Manila.

Presented are 60 stage characters in three-dimensional miniatures selected from 37 Beijing operas. Exhibit designer Zhong Youqin here vividly brings to the viewer the images "at certain fixed moments of performance, with emphasis paid to the glory displayed by the unique and exquisite costumes."



HUFA the Deity (Jing), "The Legend of White Snake"

The Yuandi Studio in Tianjin was commissioned by the Ministry of Culture for the production of these figures. Made of various materials, they reportedly required nearly 100 working procedures to complete.

With an average height of 60 cm, they're tall for a regular doll and short for a toddler. Thus, they should be arrayed apart from one another to be fully appreciated by the viewer (and not cluttered as they are now on three tiers swathed in fabric of red and gold, set against a wall near the museum entrance).

Their faces, lightly made-up or heavily painted, vary from the amusing, the tender, to the terrifying. Each character or gesture tells a story, whose content is "mainly engaged in history, philosophy, ethics, literature or aesthetics of the dynasties in the past 2,000-3,000 years."

Fantastical theater

One thing these figures have in common is their flowing costumes, layers upon layers of clothing with rich embellishments, in all hues and color tones—more fantastical than any that could be imagined by audiences weaned on the tradition of Western theater.

And they come from theater pieces with titles that are equally imaginative: "With the Help of the East Wind," "The Kingdom of Black Water," "Happy Union Between Dragon and Phoenix," "The Reed Marsh," "Jiang Gan and the Stolen Letter," "The Intersection of Three Roads," "Mu Guiying Ready to Fight as Marshal," "The Legend of White Snake," "Farewell My Concubine," "The General and the Minister Reconcile Their Differences," "The Drunken Beauty," "Paying Homage by the River," "Women Generals of the Yang Family," "Gathering of Heroes," "Composing Poems While Throwing the Spear."

The exhibit is a joint project of the Cultural Office of the Chinese Embassy in Manila and Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran, to celebrate the 29th anniversary of the Philippines-China diplomatic ties, as well as the 25th anniversary of the signing of the executive program of the Philippines-China cultural agreement.

Like little messengers, these colorful miniatures are traveling abroad "to extend their best regards to all friends who love Chinese art and culture."

PRINCESS Tiejing (Dan), "Visiting His Mother"

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FEP will receive newspapers on weekdays from 9am to 4pm in Makati, 9:30am to 4pm in Cebu and Davao, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays 1pm to 5pm in Laguna. Sellers will be paid P5.00/kilo in Manila and Laguna, and P3.50 in Cebu and Davao.

LINIS GANDA

NEWSPAPER DRIVE

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
News that makes a difference

The value of auctions

From page C1

He's selling his grandmother's portrait *kasi* he has a lover to support!

Painless

Also, one had to let strangers into one's home so that paintings could be examined. With Sotheby's, the whole process becomes painless. Once you arrange with them to sell your piece, they leave you alone. The whole time your identity is kept confidential.

With Sotheby's, your painting is made available to a wide range of people. Also, the auction house will review the authenticity of a piece so that clients know they are buying the real thing.

Given such a well-organized system, people can easily raise much needed funds through sales of art. They can then generate the resources to capitalize other projects. How many heirs were saved from bankruptcy because they were able to sell artworks which they had previously taken for granted!

Ms Camacho also notes that, by introducing Philippine paintings into a global network, she is helping to develop an international awareness of Filipino talent. She relates how it gave her so much satisfaction to see a Filipino painting in the Los Angeles home of an American client. As Philippine art gains wider acceptance, a positive and creative image of the country is projected.

Finally, we can see how some art works are forever kept hidden in private collections. With auctions many pieces are brought out for the appreciation of the public either through exhibits or the catalog.

Sotheby's also tries to educate its clientele through special lectures and forums.

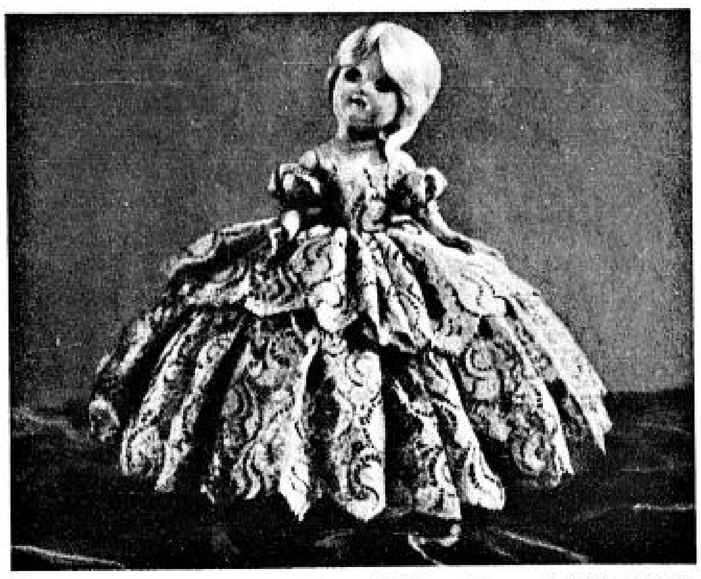
This year, we see the largest group of paintings from the Philippines ever to be part of a Sotheby's auction. This indicates that more people are aware of Philippine art. Among the pieces in the auction catalogue are Lunas, an HR Ocampo from the '60s, several works by Nena Saguil, and, so forth. I was even pleasantly surprised to see included a work by Emmanuel L. Cordova, the botanical artist I had written about last week. This time his piece, though, is of macaws.

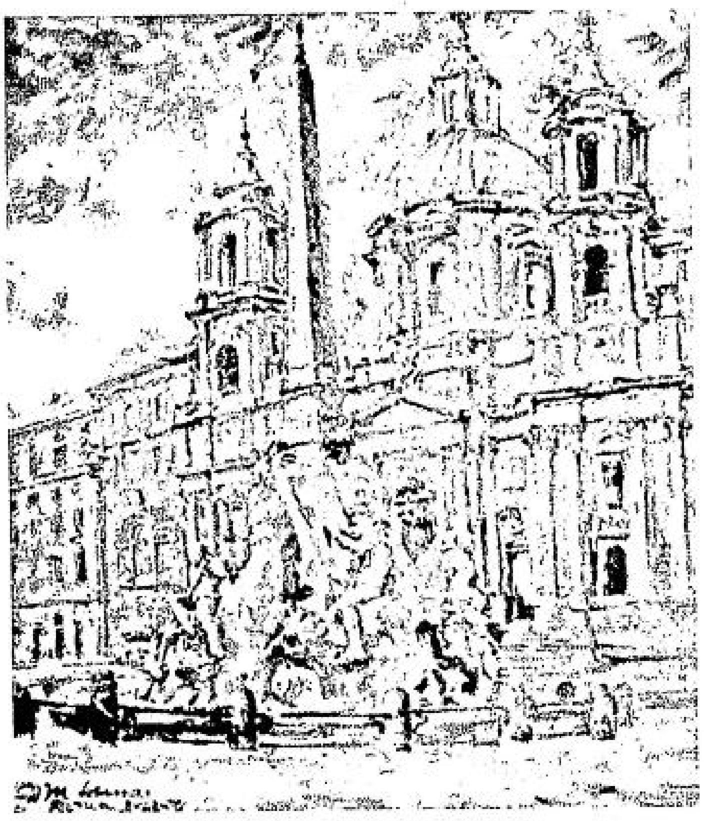
People think auction prices are astronomical. In truth, many of the works especially in the contemporary section are quite reasonably priced.

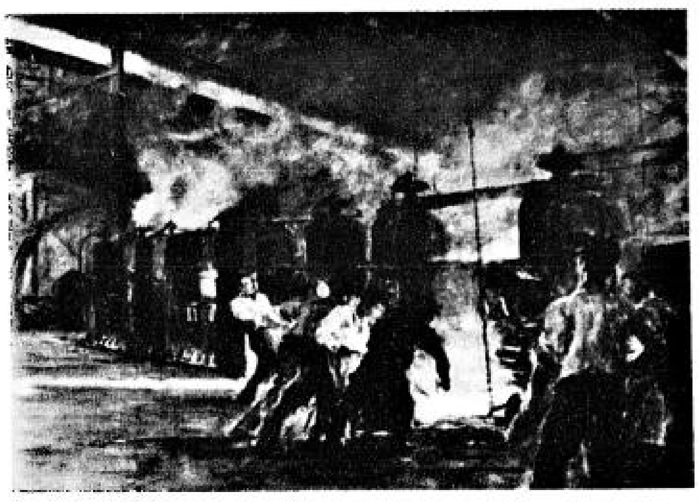
Among the most unusual paintings of the batch are two doll portraits by National Artist Fernando Amorsolo. They had been commissioned by a fastidious doll collector. They are quite remarkable for their wealth of detail.

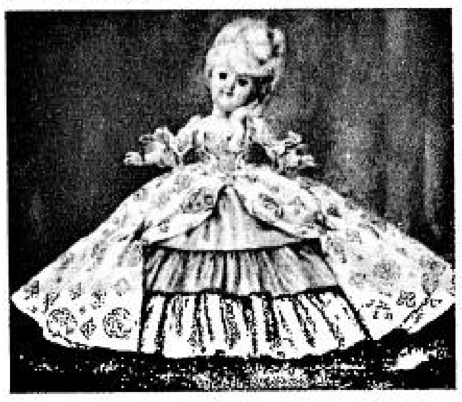
The auction will be held in Singapore on Oct. 10.

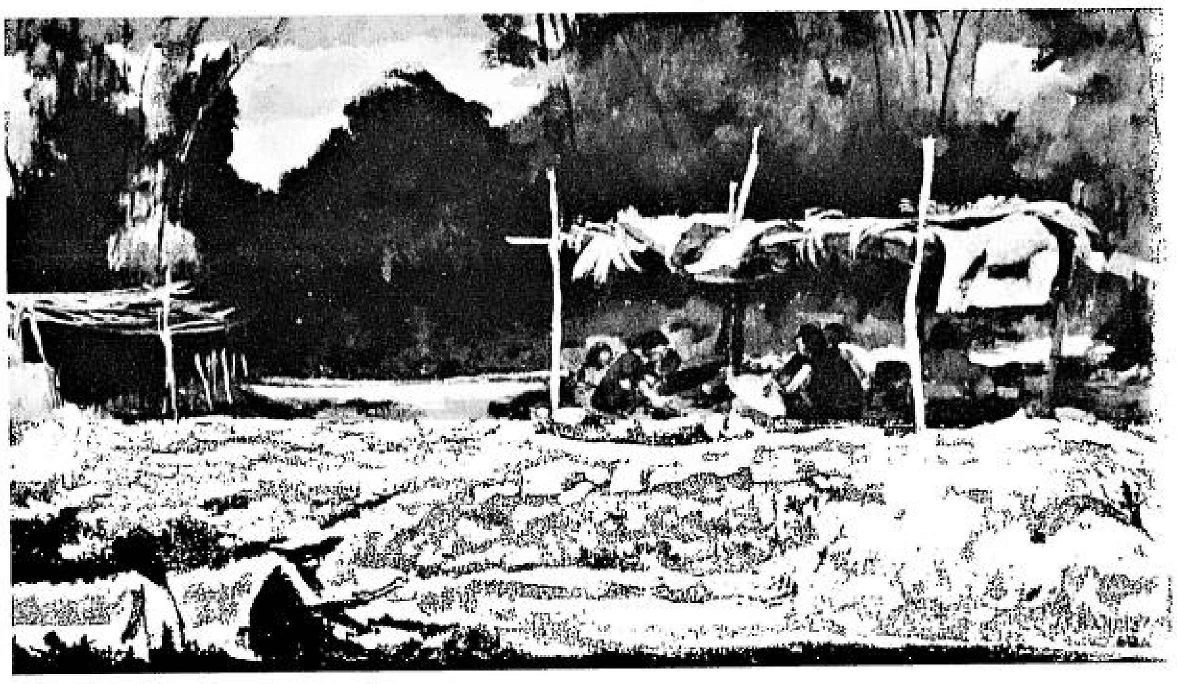
Whatever the result, the fact that Sotheby's is now active on the Philippine art market is encouraging. It tells us that even in a time of crisis an international company has enough faith to invest in the artistry and creativity of Filipinos!

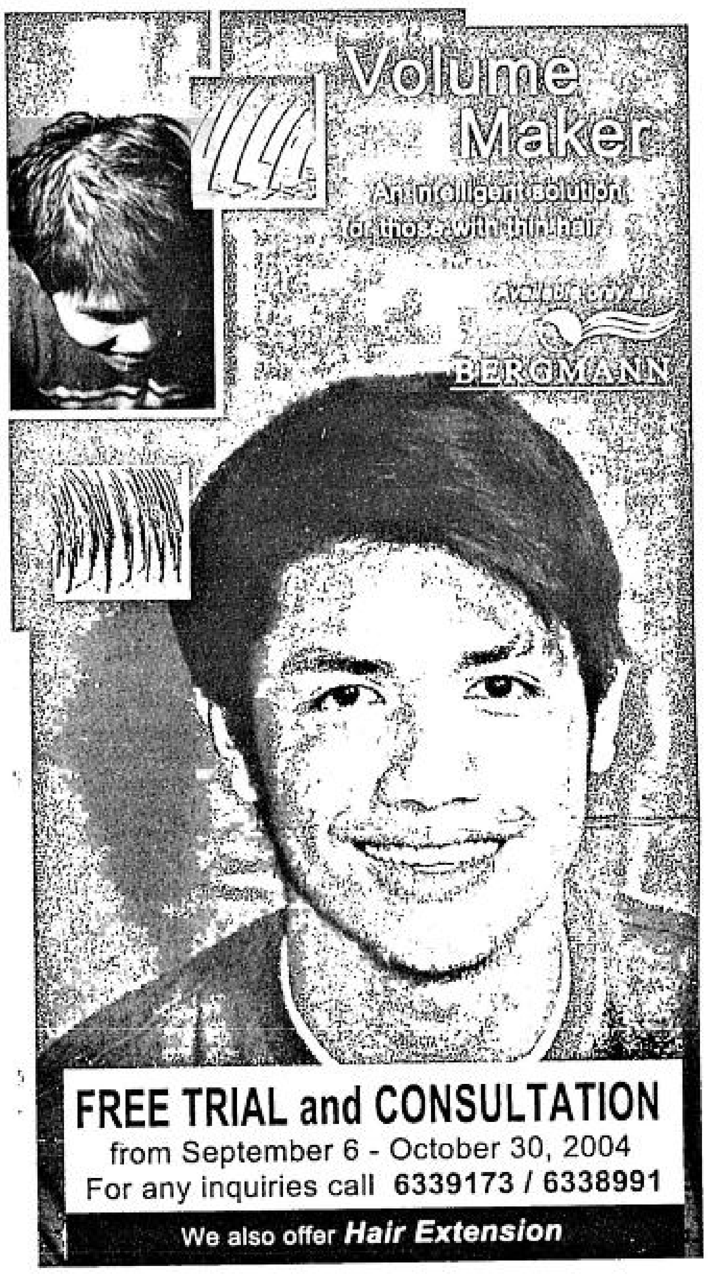

"EMPRESS Eugenie Doll," by Fernando Cueto Amorsolo (1892-1972)


"PIAZZA Navona," by Diosdado Lorenzo (1906-1983)


DETAIL from "Steel Mills," by Juan Luna


"MARIE Antoinette Doll," by Amorsolo


"VILLAGE Scene," by Carlos V. Francisco (1912-1969)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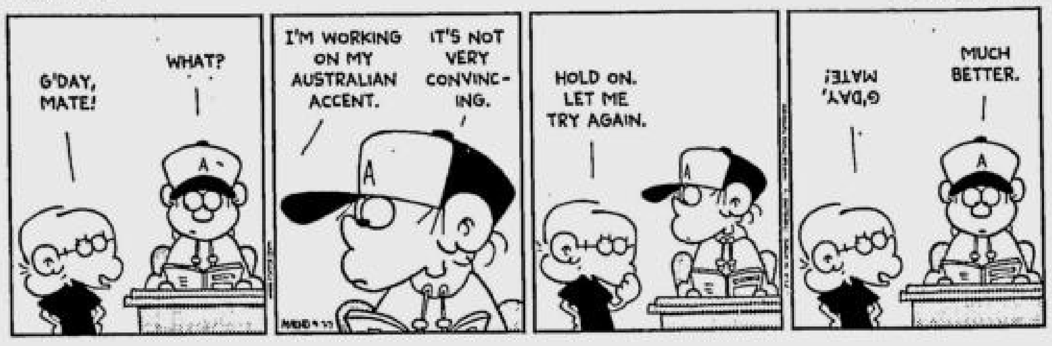
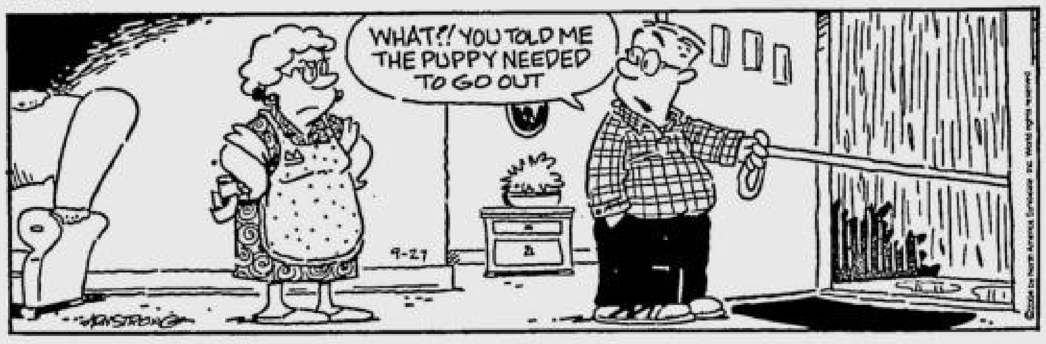
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


G'DAY, MATE!
WHAT?
I'M WORKING ON MY AUSTRALIAN ACCENT.
IT'S NOT VERY CONVINCING.
HOLD ON. LET ME TRY AGAIN.
G'DAY, MATE!
MUCH BETTER.

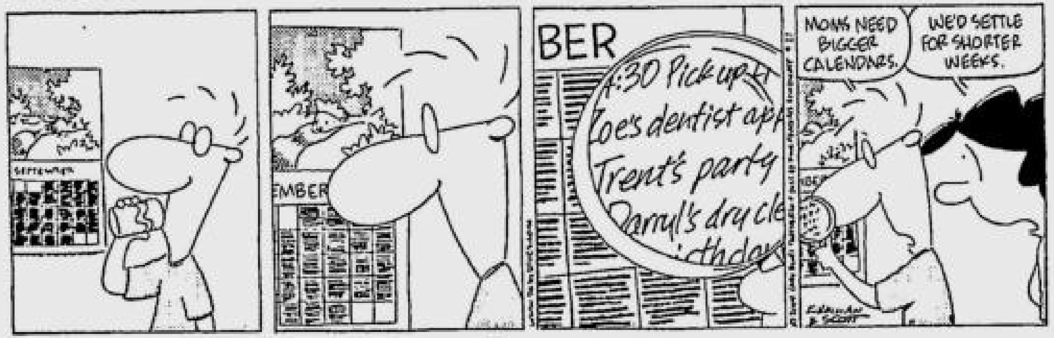
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHAT?! YOU TOLD ME THE PUPPY NEEDED TO GO OUT
9-27
ARMSTRONG

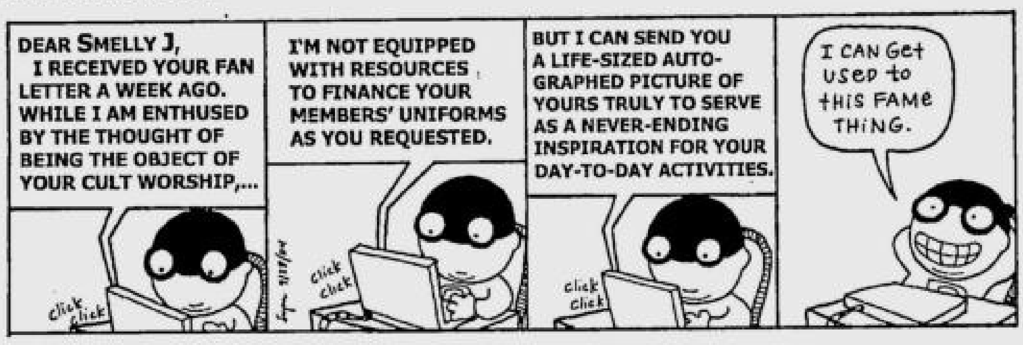
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


BER
4:30 Pick up Zoe's dentist app Trent's party Darryl's dry cle birthday
MOMS NEED BIGGER CALENDARS.
WE'D SETTLE FOR SHORTER WEEKS.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


DEAR SMELLY J, I RECEIVED YOUR FAN LETTER A WEEK AGO. WHILE I AM ENTHUSED BY THE THOUGHT OF BEING THE OBJECT OF YOUR CULT WORSHIP,...
click click
I'M NOT EQUIPPED WITH RESOURCES TO FINANCE YOUR MEMBERS' UNIFORMS AS YOU REQUESTED.
click click
BUT I CAN SEND YOU A LIFE-SIZED AUTOGRAPHED PICTURE OF YOURS TRULY TO SERVE AS A NEVER-ENDING INSPIRATION FOR YOUR DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES.
click click
I CAN GET USED TO THIS FAME THING.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: People believe in you more than you believe in yourself. Fortunately, your quest for perfection and your steady perseverance bring you success. You have very high standards for yourself. Plus, you're versatile and capable in many fields. Expect a social, fun-loving, romantic year ahead!
Birthdate of: Cheryl Tiegs, model; Avril Lavigne, singer; Shaun Cassidy, writer/actor/singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): In the next few weeks, you might have to confront an open hostility. This could be a friend or even someone at work. Be aboveboard and forthright.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Although you're still in the mood for play and romance, you're ready to get down to work now. Start making plans about how you can get better organized in your job and at home.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel an increasing need to declare your freedom about something. You're a playful sign, and you love to explore new ways. You don't want anyone holding you back.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Lots of chaos and activity at home will keep you busy in the month ahead. Be extra-patient with family members now. Tempers can be short.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): The tempo of your everyday life definitely accelerates now. This could provoke conflict or tension with siblings and relatives. (But it doesn't have to, if you keep your cool.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might get into disputes about values, or money and possessions. You tend to identify with what you own (now and in the next few weeks).

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): The next few weeks will definitely be a time of increased activity in your life. You intend to work very hard to further your own best interests. Good!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might feel vaguely irritated about something in the next few weeks. This could be due to some repressed feelings that you refuse to acknowledge. Think about this.

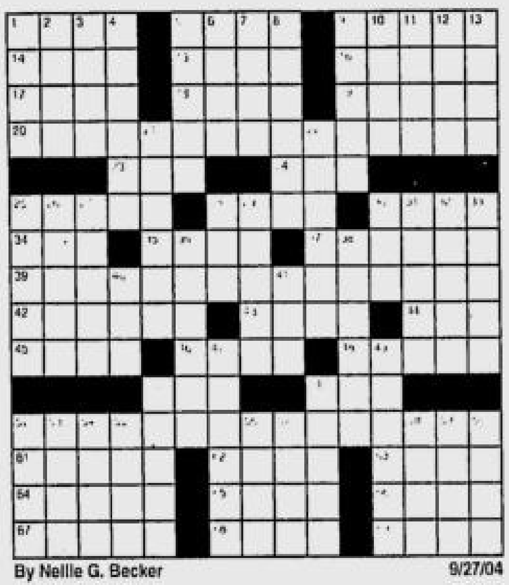
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Physical activity with friends in the next few weeks will be on the agenda. Working and playing with others will give you pleasure and a strong sense of satisfaction.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might run into a bit of conflict with authority figures—your boss, a parent or someone in a position of power. It might be good to remember to show respect. (Don't go looking for trouble.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You identify with your beliefs right now. It's OK to defend your beliefs, but remember that others don't have to believe what you believe.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might have some disputes about resources that are held jointly with someone else. Or you might have a disagreement about who is responsible for something. It's OK to stand your ground.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Nellie G. Becker
Leesburg, GA

9/27/04

ACROSS
1 Kind of card
5 Novelist Hunter
9 Durable trousers
14 Job safety org.
15 VIP vehicle
16 Loosen
17 Shoshones
18 Lake formed by Hoover Dam
19 "La __ Vita"
20 Small fabrications
23 Chariot attachment?
24 Half a dance?
25 Striped equine
28 Friendly lead-in
30 Flat-bottomed vessel
34 Cheer at a corrida
35 Laura of "Jurassic Park"
37 Thickheaded
39 Shirley Temple movie
42 Mean
43 Writer's tools
44 Ref. volumes from the U.K.
45 Bridge position
46 Option word
48 Dawdle
50 ISS partner
51 Poetic eyeball
52 Little pet
61 Idyllic places
62 Nautical side
63 Hebrew month
64 Roster of candidates
65 Palindromic magazine
66 Indian princess
67 King of Judea
68 Lou or Willis
69 Actress Cannon

DOWN
1 Sports infraction
2 Wine region of Italy
3 Guitarist Atkins
4 Island west of Chile
5 Fudd or Gantry
6 Opinion
7 Oriental nanny
8 Absolutely not!
9 Ancient Israel
10 Organic compound
11 Gudrun's victim
12 French city
13 Catches on
21 Straight man's line
22 Pitched or tossed
25 Yikes!
26 "Maria __"
27 Borscht ingredients
28 Internet address letters
29 Cuts
30 RR stop
31 "My Fair Lady" director
32 Wickerwork material
33 Like an unkempt lawn
36 Most senior
38 Small bar
40 Moist
41 Wide shoe width
47 "Time After Time" singer Cyndi
49 On the plane
50 Relaxed
51 Made a choice
52 Screen material
53 Without work
54 Within range
55 Division word
56 Part in a play
57 __ Stanley Gardner
58 June 6, 1944
59 Actress Turner
60 Actress Moran

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

M	I	S	H	A	P	■	S	U	S	T	A	I	N	S
I	N	C	O	M	E	■	O	N	T	A	R	G	E	T
A	T	O	N	E	R	■	I	M	A	G	I	N	E	R
T	O	N	E	R	S	■	L	E	T	■	A	I	D	A
A	W	E	■	C	O	G	■	T	U	G	■	T	I	N
■	■	■	G	E	N	E	S	■	S	A	Y	I	N	G
P	H	E	A	S	A	N	T	S	■	L	I	B	E	L
R	A	V	E	■	S	T	A	N	D	■	E	L	S	E
O	V	A	L	S	■	S	T	A	I	N	L	E	S	S
T	E	N	S	E	R	■	E	R	R	E	D	■	■	■
R	A	G	■	W	E	B	■	L	O	W	■	B	A	D
A	C	E	S	■	T	A	B	■	C	H	E	E	S	E
C	A	L	I	G	U	L	A	■	C	A	P	I	T	A
T	R	I	T	O	N	E	S	■	O	R	E	G	O	N
S	E	C	E	D	E	R	S	■	S	T	E	E	R	S

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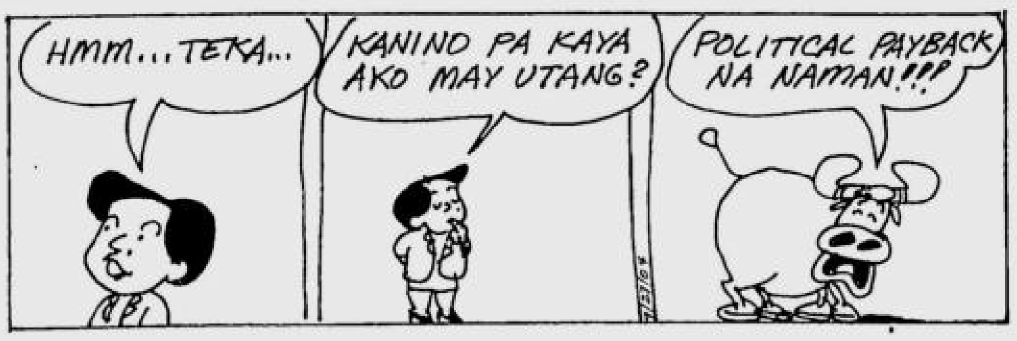
9/27/04

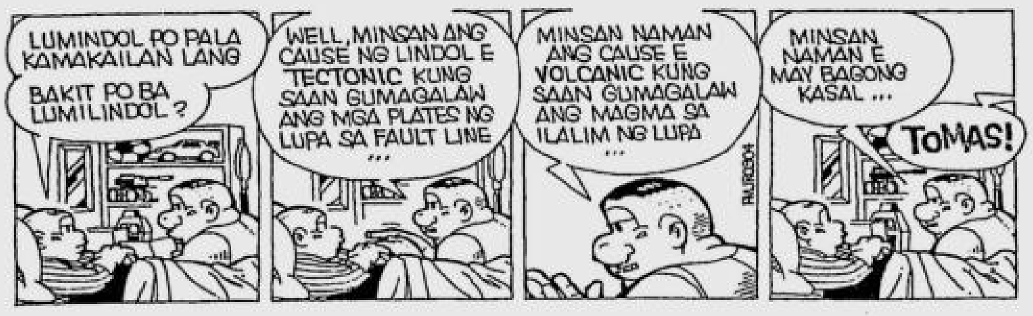
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


HMM... TEKA...
KANINO PA KAYA AKO MAY UTANG?
POLITICAL PAYBACK NA NAMAN!!!

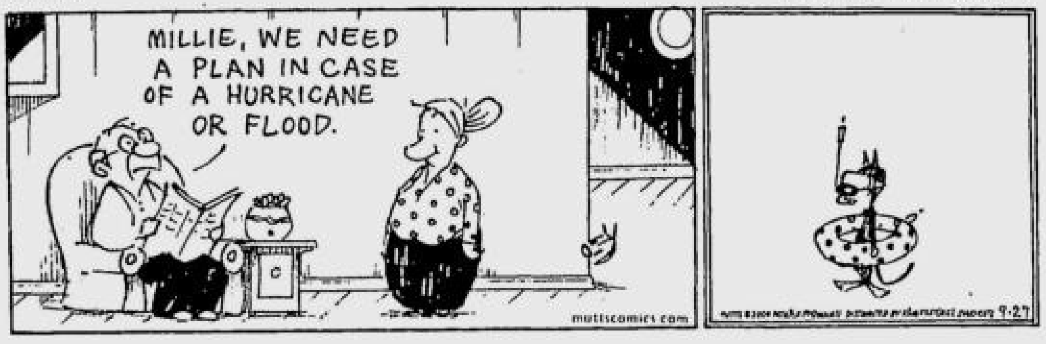
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


LUMINDOL PO PALA KAMAKAILAN LANG
BAKIT PO BA LUMILINDOL?
WELL, MINSAN ANG CAUSE NG LINDOL E TECTONIC KUNG SAAN GUMAGALAW ANG MGA PLATES NG LUPA SA FAULT LINE ...
MINSAN NAMAN ANG CAUSE E VOLCANIC KUNG SAAN GUMAGALAW ANG MAGMA SA ILALIM NG LUPA ...
MINSAN NAMAN E MAY BAGONG KASAL ...
TOMAS!

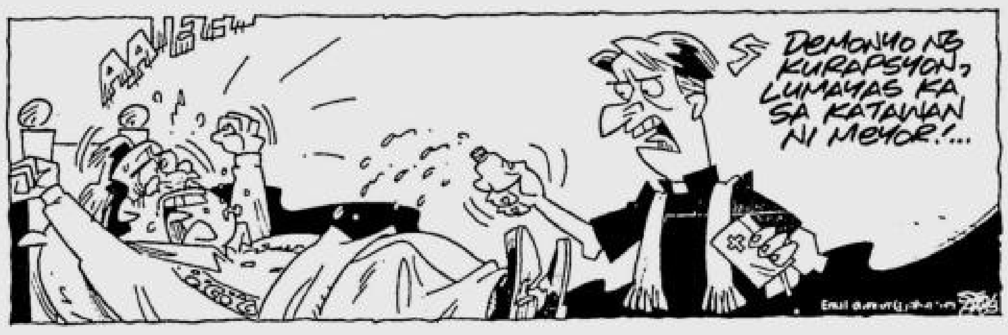
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MILLIE, WE NEED A PLAN IN CASE OF A HURRICANE OR FLOOD.
muttscomics.com
9-27

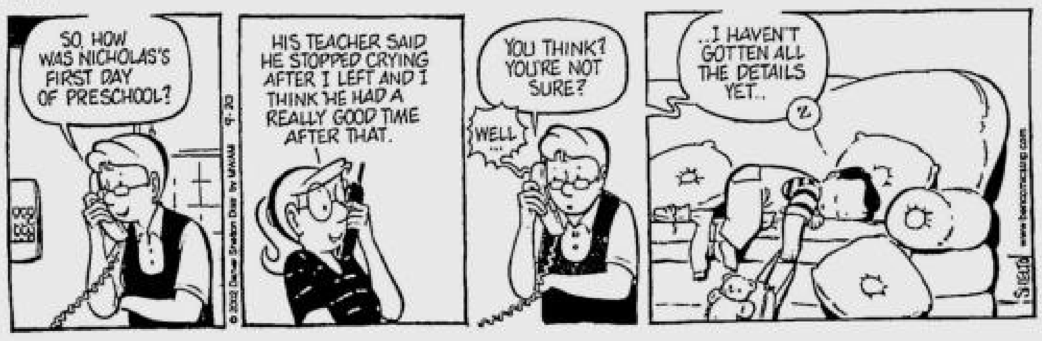
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AAARGH!
DEMONYO NG KURAPSYON, LUMAYAS KA SA KATAWAN NI MEYOR!...

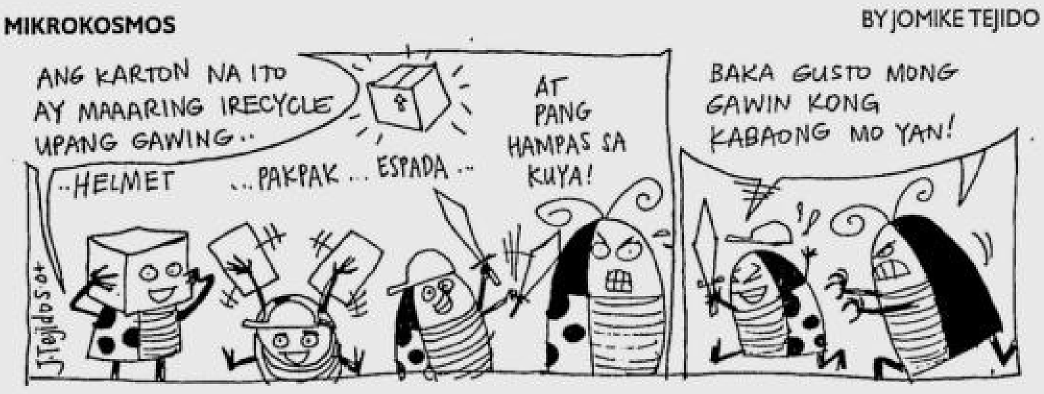
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


SO, HOW WAS NICHOLAS'S FIRST DAY OF PRESCHOOL?
HIS TEACHER SAID HE STOPPED CRYING AFTER I LEFT AND I THINK HE HAD A REALLY GOOD TIME AFTER THAT.
WELL ...
YOU THINK? YOU'RE NOT SURE?
...I HAVEN'T GOTTEN ALL THE DETAILS YET...
Z

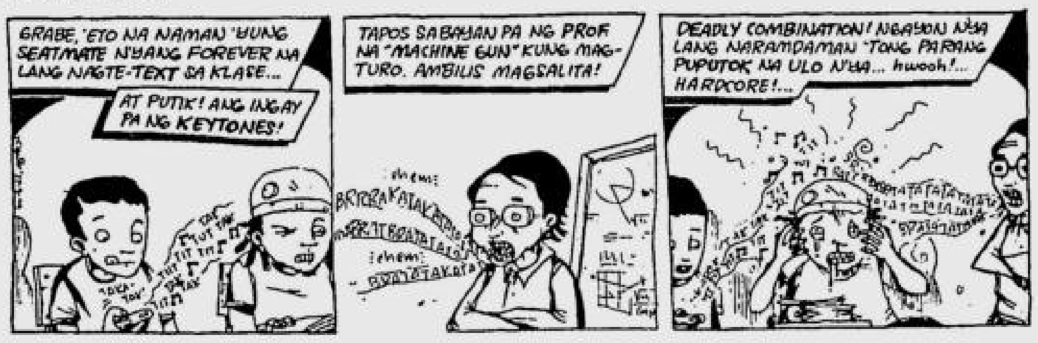
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANG KARTON NA ITO AY MAAARING IRECYCLE UPANG GAWING..
..HELMET ...PAKPAK ... ESPADA ..
AT PANG HAMPAS SA KUYA!
BAKA GUSTO MONG GAWIN KONG KABAONG MO YAN!
J. Tejido s04

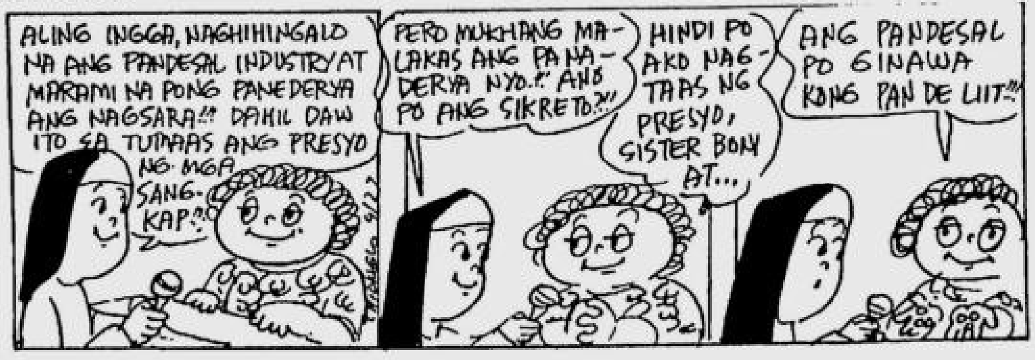
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE, 'ETO NA NAMAN 'UNG SEATMATE N'YANG FOREVER NA LANG NAGTE-TEXT SA KLASE...
AT PUTIK! ANG INGAY PA NG KEYTONES!
TAPOS SABAYAN PA NG PROF NA "MACHINE GUN" KUNG MAGTURO. AMBILIS MAGSALITA!
ahem!
ahem!
DEADLY COMBINATION! NGAYON N'YA LANG NARAMDAMAN 'TONG PARANG PUPUTOK NA ULO N'YA... hwooh!... HARDCORE!...

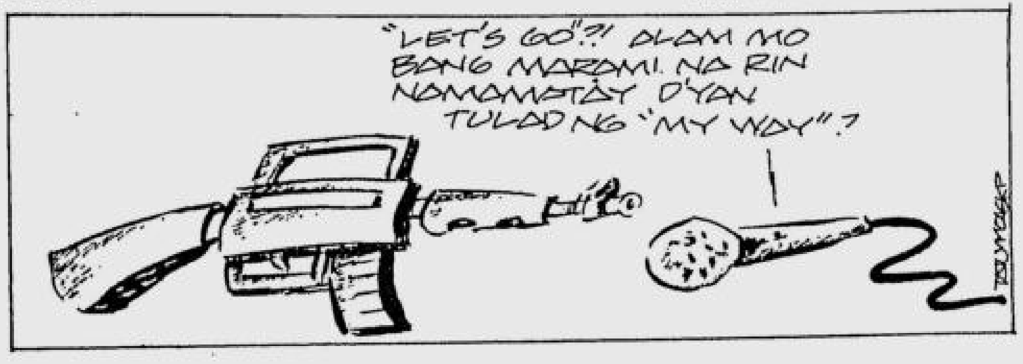
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALING INGGA, NAGHIHINGALO NA ANG PANDESAL INDUSTRY AT MARAMI NA PONG PANEDERYA ANG NAGSARA!!! DAHIL DAW ITO SA TUMAAS ANG PRESYO NG MGA SANGKAP?!
PERO MUKHANG MALAKAS ANG PANADERYA NYO..!! ANO PO ANG SIKRETO?!!
HINDI PO AKO NAGTAAS NG PRESYO, SISTER BONY AT...
ANG PANDESAL PO GINAWA KONG PAN DE LIIT!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


"LET'S GO"?! ALAM MO BANG MARAMI NA RIN NAMAMATAY D'YAN TULAD NG "MY WAY"?

Abstract's great leap of faith

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

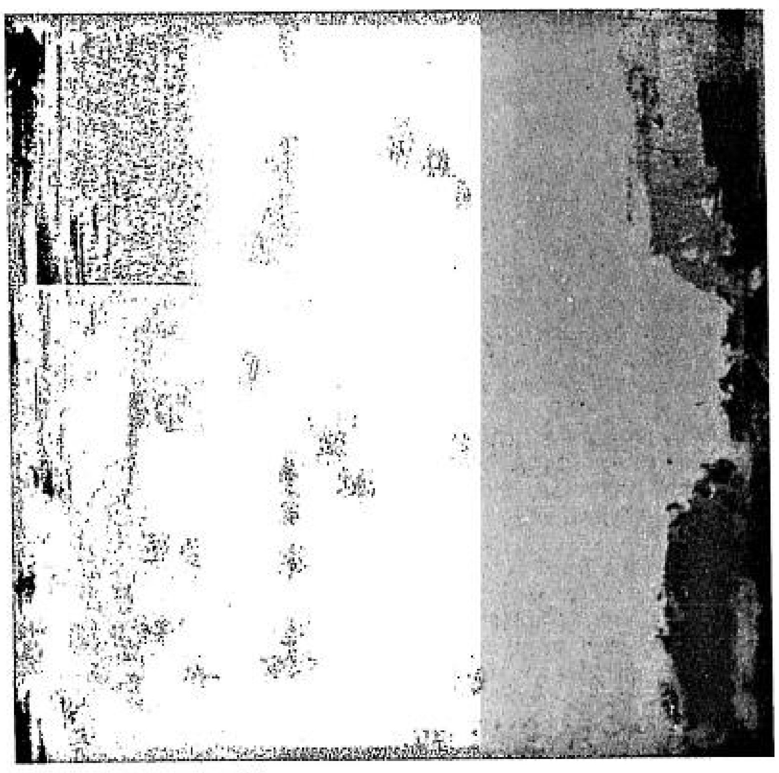
WHAT mysteriously boundless force has spurred the artist to mount nearly four dozen, relatively large works in a second major show this year?

The answer arguably lies in his Confucian work ethic. Carlo Magno, the realist-now turned-abstractionist, works vigorously and feverishly, unhampered by the encumbrances of day-to-day living. He is focused, driven and totally devoted to his muse, which we cannot say of most artists today.

In his 18th show titled "Transcendence" (The Podium in Ortigas Center), which is curated by Galerie Joaquin, Magno's main inspiration are the ancient civilizations that flourished in the Near East and the Far East.

Thus, there are two apposite fields of color: the earth colors of the Near East and the contrasting color of imperial red, representing ancient China.

There are pieces where both colors are mixed in a heady profusion, suggesting the rich amalgam of influences in the local abstract genre. This is where reason and intuition are fused, mixed and concatenated.


"GLORIOUS Kingdom" I

Trademark

The majority of the paintings bear the trademark Carlo Magno orb, which, in his past three shows, has undergone a series of mutations. Though still a dominant fixture here, it has been transplanted, scaled down, or partly obliterated from view, to give way to the other equally distinctive elements, such as the new breathing space that evokes arches or windows, and painted on a rich, heavily impastoed surface.

The new paintings, in all their grandeur, are particularly raw and deliriously textured, much of their appeal emanating from the excellent illumination provided by the organizers.

The brushwork textures have given way to an infinitesimal horizontal band, and slivers of thick impastos applied not unlike that of cement.

Indeed, majority of the works project a stucco-like effect, apparently mimicking the work of masons in the act of smoothening cement on the surface.

There is also an abundance of fine sand, sandblasted on the surface of the canvas. They allude to primordial elements the artist has repeatedly evoked in his pieces.

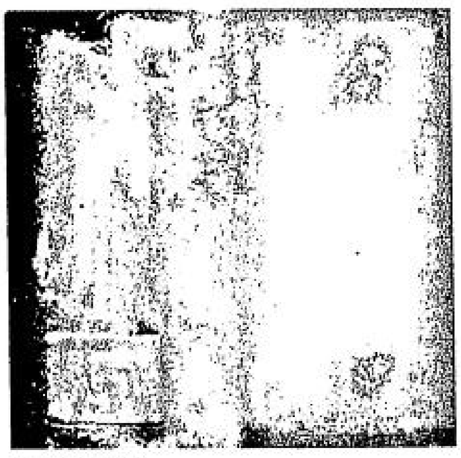
A fervid realist who began working on such subjects as old houses and antiques, Magno has shifted to abstraction, apparently influenced by Gus Albor, a highly revered figure by aspiring abstractionists.

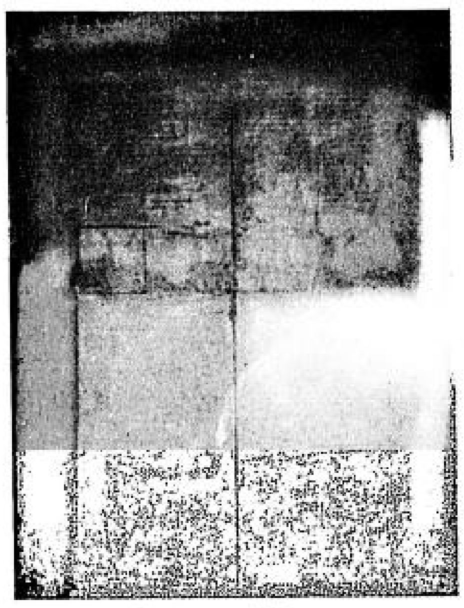
In the handling of brushwork and imagery, Magno has finally weaned himself of the influences of the top abstractionists like Albor, moving ever closer to home.

Though there are areas in his works that evoke Albor, Magno is coming into his own, especially in his application of textural effects. His focus on anthropology also points to his growing autonomy. More and more, he is becoming sure of his philosophy.

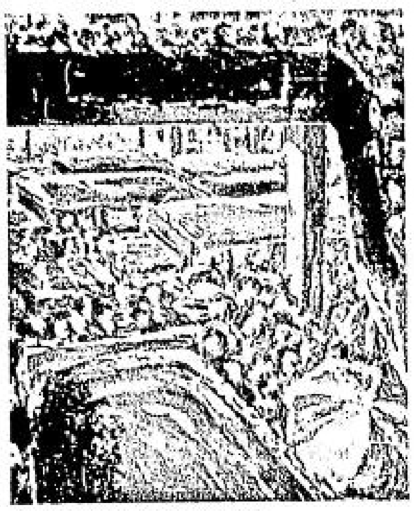
The curatorial job is also confident. Lighting, layout, the setup, complete with whitewashed panels, should merit high marks from gallerygoers. And, giving justice to the title, Carlo Magno has surpassed and transcended people's expectations.

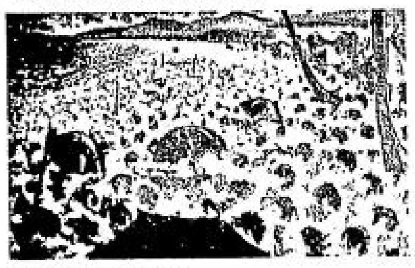
E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com


"ROSE Ash"


"PRIMORDIAL Element" II

"WHISPERING Wind" II


"DALAWANG Tawiran" II


"EKSKURSYON"

Pontillas' urban expressionist works on view at Podium

MULTI-AWARDED artist Marcial Pontillas is holding his first one-man exhibit, "Genre of Expressions: MASA," at the Galerie Joaquin at The Podium.

Pontillas twice won the grand prize PLDT-Directories Phils. Corp.'s Visual Art national painting competition. He also won the grand prizes of the CBCP/UST National Eucharistic Painting Competition, the TSPI-Tulay sa Pag-unlad Painting Contest, and the 28th Shell National Art Competition.

He has also been a consistent finalist in the Philip Morris, Winsor and Newton, and AAP art contests. Recently, he was one of the 5 Jurors Choice awardees of the GSIS painting competition.

Pontillas' works call to mind the works of noted expressionists Danny Dalena and Onib Olmedo. Like Dalena's, Pontillas' works are clearly metaphors for the human condition.

Call 7239253 or 6347954.

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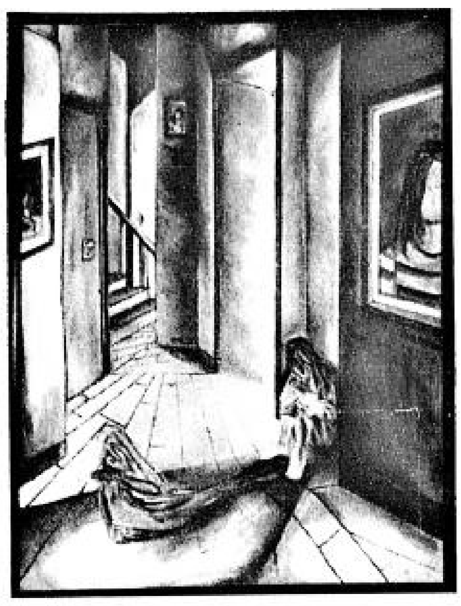
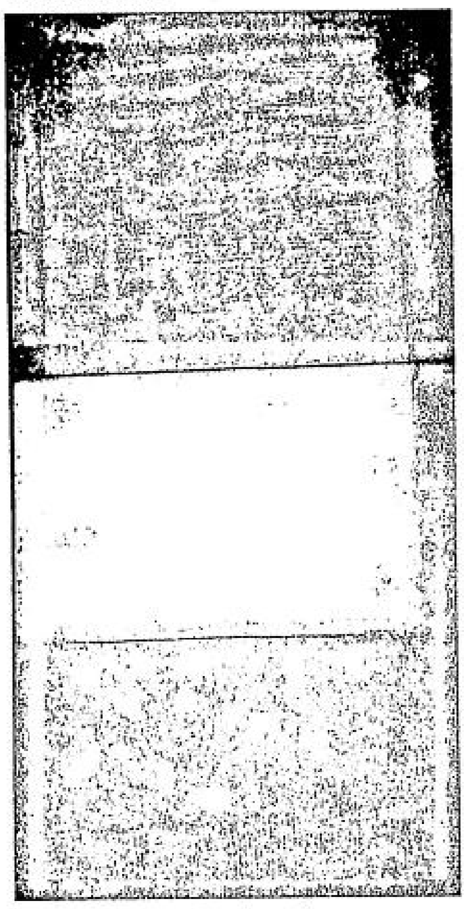
[1] Watson, R.L., C.J. Dillard, and J.B. German, Crit. Rev. Food & Sci & Nutr. 42:153, 2002. [2] [illegible]

[illegible]

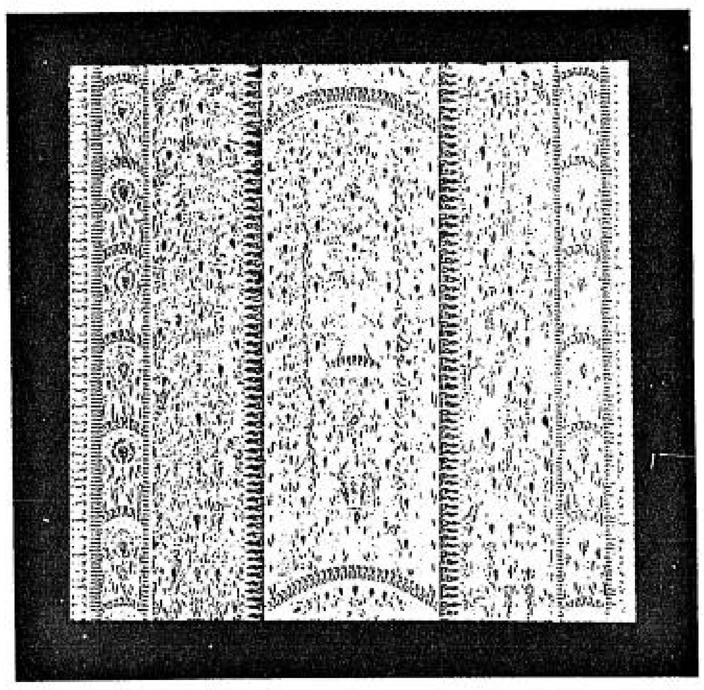
Rich mid-autumn harvest of art works



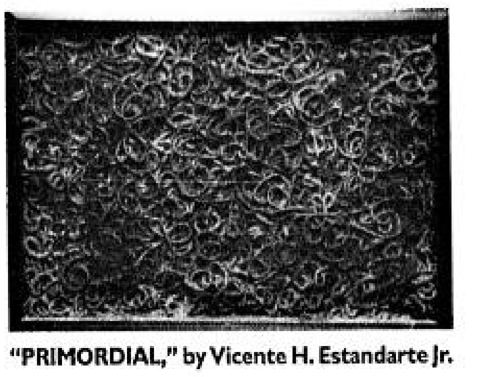
"SERIES I: The Calamity" by Jacqueline Czerille Vicente



"DIVISIONS," by Fitzsimon Herrera



"DOMINUS Vobiscum," by Dexter Mulato Sy



"PRIMORDIAL," by Vicente H. Estandarte Jr.

By Alma Cruz Miclat
Contributor

In the eight month, at mid-autumn,
the moon is at its fullest.
I write a poem
for my friend taking the lily boat.
—Wei Zhuang (836-910), Tang Dynasty

ZHONG Qiu Jie or the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as Mooncake Festival, is celebrated yearly during the 15th day of the eight month in the lunar calendar. The third major festival of the Chinese people, the feast this Year of the Monkey falls on Sept. '28. Like the Tang dynasty poet, Wei Zhuang more than 1,000 years ago, many will wax poetic on the fullness of the moon while munching yuebing or mooncakes, our very own *hopia* which also means "unity cake."

At Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Mandaluyong, the celebration of the Mooncake Festival will spill over on Sept. 29 at 6 p.m. when artists, poets, writers and academics, businessmen and office employees and people from other walks of life get together for the 2004 Maningning Miclat Painting Awards.

Winners of the Maningning Miclat painting contest to be known Sept. 29

Organized by the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation in cooperation with the Shangri-La Plaza and Gallery 828, the occasion will be graced by our two National Artists, Napoleon Abueva and Virgilio Almario, who will join the foundation president, Herman T. Gamboa in awarding the winners of the art competition. Shangri-La Plaza's executive vice president and general manager, Lala Fojas will give the welcome remarks. Music and songs will be provided by classical guitarist, Segundo Vasquez Jr. and Aba Dalena while the band, Si Charcoal, May Anak will render two poems by Maningning, "Kinalaman" and "Bleed," which they set into music. A special song number will be given by 80-year-old opera singer, Henry L. S. Tong, from a poem, "Shanghai Love," which he translated into Chinese and set into music, while the author of the poem, Nerisa del Carmen Guevara will dance to the music of Maningning's poem, "Dumaan Ako," set into music by Joey Ayala.

The program will not be complete without poetry. And the 2003 Maningning Miclat Poetry Award winners—grand winner in English poetry, Naya S. Valdellon who was also the 2004 Palanca grand winner, and Angelo Suárez, honorable mention and the 1st Struga Bridges poet laureate in 49 years; grand winner in Filipino poetry, Joselito de los Reyes and honorable mention, Mesandel Arguelles—will be reciting their winning poems. The Filipino poet laureate, Teo Antonio, will join the young poets in the program to be emceed by the inimitable Ed Cabagnot of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Closing remarks will be given by the poet/writer and UP professor, Dr. Mario Miclat.

Remembering a legacy

The Maningning Miclat Award for both poetry and painting are named after the artist, poet, translator and art teacher , Maningning Miclat who passed away on Sept. 29, 2000.

The young Maningning herself won numerous grants and awards, including the 1992 Art Association of the Philippines Grand Prize in non-representational painting.

A sensitive poet in English, Chinese and Filipino, she deftly moved her verses from one language to another and experienced different kinds of subtlety in the process.

She published books, designed book covers, held solo and group exhibits, taught art classes while taking up Masters in Fine Arts, and even acted as official interpreter for then President Cory Aquino during a state banquet for the visiting Chinese premier, Li Peng.

About Maningning, publisher Karina Bolasco said, " She put her whole lifetime into 28 years and what an enormously creative and sensitive life it was. Without question, what an extremely productive life! What normally would take others five or six decades to accomplish, she did in 28 years!

"It does seem like Maningning was born with a map in her head. She knew what she had to do and where she had to go. It was a purposeful and thoughtful life she lived. And even after death, her art continues to give life a methodical shape. So Maningning—the childlike girl who took to the swing in the courtyard to keep her sense of rhythm for her free verses."

Exhibit and sale at Shang

Twenty eight paintings were shortlisted from 60 entries to the 2004 Maningning Miclat Art Competition coming from 17 schools. These paintings have been on exhibit/sale at the Shang Mall since Sept. 17. The painters are either students or graduates of University of the Philippines, University of Santo Tomas, Far Eastern University, University of the East, Philippine Women's University, St. Scholastica's College, Ateneo de Manila University, De La Salle University, Silliman University, University of Asia and the Pacific, La Consolacion College, College of St. Benilde, Holy Trinity College, Bulacan State University, Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology, Immanuel Lutheran High School and De La Salle Zobel High School.

Four paintings were further shortlisted by the panel of judges composed of the brilliant artist, Danny Dalena, artist-academician and former dean of the UP College of Fine Arts, Nestor Olarte Vinluan, and dean of the UE College of Fine Arts, Gerardo Tan. The three will have a chat portion in the program to explain their methodology in the selection of the winning art works.

All 28 semi-finalists will be given a certificate of merit with the three honorable mention receiving a gift pack of art materials from the National Bookstore and special collector's edition of Maningning Miclat's trilingual book of poetry, "Voice from the Underworld" and anthology of poems and essays, "Beauty for Ashes: Remembering Maningning." The grand prize winner will run away with P28,000 and a Ramon Orlina glass sculpture trophy plus the two books. Certificate of participation will be given all those who submitted their art works.

The painting award will be given out again in 2006. Meanwhile, the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation announces the opening of the 2005 Maningning Miclat Poetry Competition in English, Filipino and Chinese. The deadline of submission of entries for the poetry competition will be on April 15, 2005.

The author is vice president of Data Center Design Corp. and executive director of the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation, Inc.
Visit www.maningning.com

MARIO I. Miclat, Gallery 828 owner Ophelia Dee, Alma Miclat, Danny Dalena, Nestor Vinluan and Gerardo Tan

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Palencia at Finale, Yuson at West, Fil Delacruz at Hiraya

ABSTRACT artist JPalencia will open "The Balagabag Series" on Sept. 28 at the Finale Gallery (4/L, SM Megamall). The series explores his experiences on a small island in the Pacific off the eastern coast of Luzon For the first time, he uses the printed word in mixed media works to delineate states of mind and emotions. He tries to capture inner worlds through words and colors. The show runs until Oct. 10. Call 6342410 or 6342411.

WEST Gallery features Reg Yuson's "Seemingly Unseemingly" on Sept. 30-Oct. 12 at 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. The show showcases new works in fiberglass and automobile paint. Call 7527028.

VISUAL ARTS

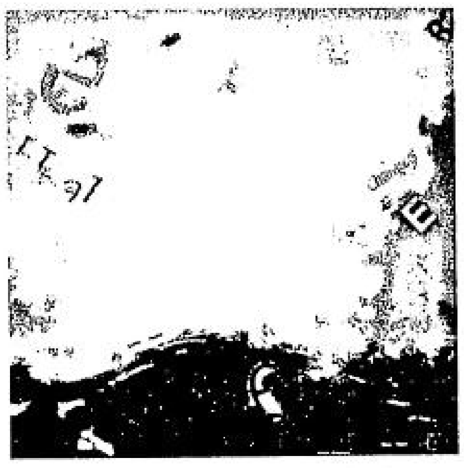
MARIO'S Restaurant presents "8: An Artist's Collective," starting Sept. 28. The exhibit features the works of Art Bermido, Bien Benitez, Jeps Belen, Jo Austria, Lindslee, Michele Lim, Sam Penaso and Tom Daquioag. Mario's Restaurant is at 191 Tomas Morato, QC. Call 7240196.

THE BIG and Small Art Co. at SM Megamall showcases Manok's "Senses" until Sept. 29. On view are 20 works in mixed media, with each piece trying to convey a sensation through texture, color and composition. Call 6877425.

GALLERIA Duemila (4/L, Megamall) presents Gelena's "Living Art" until Oct. 9. The exhibit features the artist's collection, production and conversion of art objects into furniture. Call 6343261 or 6336687.

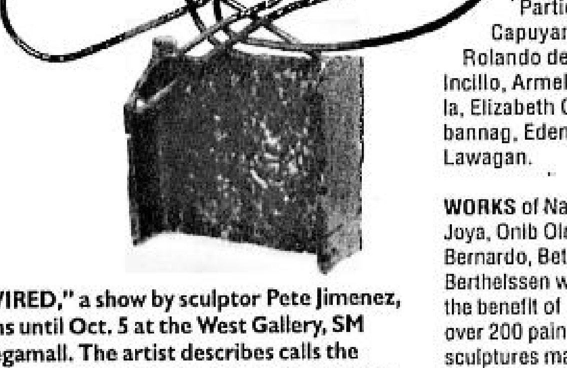
THE CARMELITE Sisters of Our Lady of Carmel presents "Blessing Upon Blessing," a charity exhibit, on Oct. 1-3 at the lanai area, Celebrity Sports Plaza, Capitol Hills Drive, Diliman, QC. The show features various works donated by artists to raise funds for the Carmelites' educational ministry for poor children through the Fiore del Carmelo School in Quezon City. Call 2490585.

"CONFESSIONAL BOX" is the first cross-disciplinary collaborative project of Norberto Roldan and Donna Miranda. The exhibit explores the feelings and emotions evoked by the act of Confession. The exhibit runs on Oct. 4-22 at Alliance Total Gallery, 209 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. Call 8957441/ 8957585.



"IHOM Balagbag No. 245," by JPalencia

LE SOUFFLÉ Ortigas presents "Poetic Impressions" on Oct. 4-31, at 2/L, Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Participating artists are Arabelle Pua, Armi Yam, Eunice Roxas, Heart Co, Ida Ching, Joy Chua, Merly Ong and Susan Aquilino.



"WIRED," a show by sculptor Pete Jimenez, runs until Oct. 5 at the West Gallery, SM Megamall. The artist describes calls the series "sketches" but with steel as drawing instrument. Call 6341284

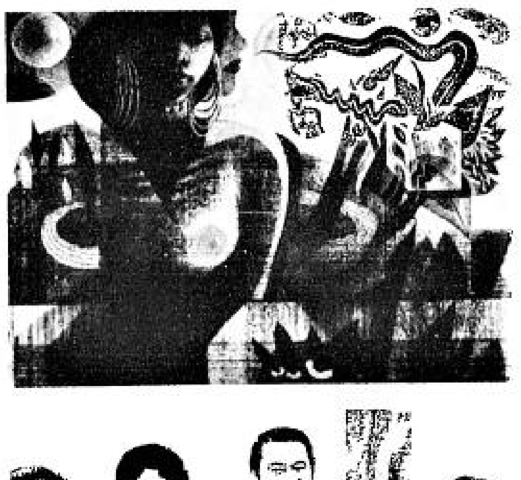
"THE PHYSICAL Presence of Subconscious Manifestation #3"

ROMAN Mabanta III holds his first solo exhibit of acrylic, watercolor and pastel paintings until Oct. 5, at the Gallery of National Telecommunications Commission on BIR Road, East Triangle, QC.

GALLERY 139 presents Roland de los Santos' "Mother and Child: A Symphony of Love" until Oct. 6 at 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati. The exhibit showcases women vendors with their children in tow.

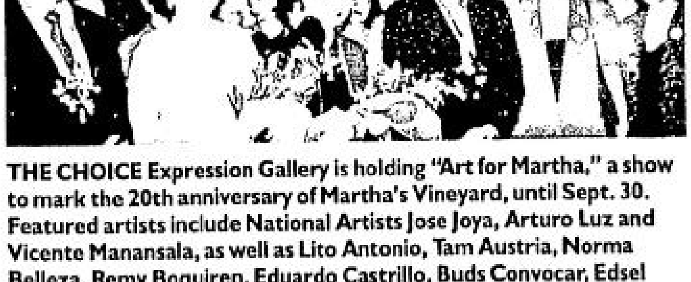
CSI LA Union presents "Ganda ng Pilipinas, Galing ng Pinoy" until Oct. 10. The show focuses on the beauty of the Cordillera Provinces. Participating artists are Luke Warren Capuyan, Claire Tandoyog, Juliet Botigan, Rolando de Jesus, Renato Austriz Jr., Eden Incillo, Armel Kenneth Ramos, Francisca Morla, Elizabeth Oman, Efren Baruzo, Macario Cabannag, Eden Awing, Joy Esteras and Luve Lawagan.

WORKS of National Artist for Visual Arts Jose Joya, Onib Olmedo, Irineo Miranda, Constancio Bernardo, Betsy Westendorp and Brita Berthelssen will be offered to art aficionados for the benefit of Bantay Kalikasan. The collection of over 200 paintings, drawings, fine prints and sculptures may be viewed on Oct. 4-8, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., at the 14/L, Main Dining Room, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound Call 4152227 or 4152200.

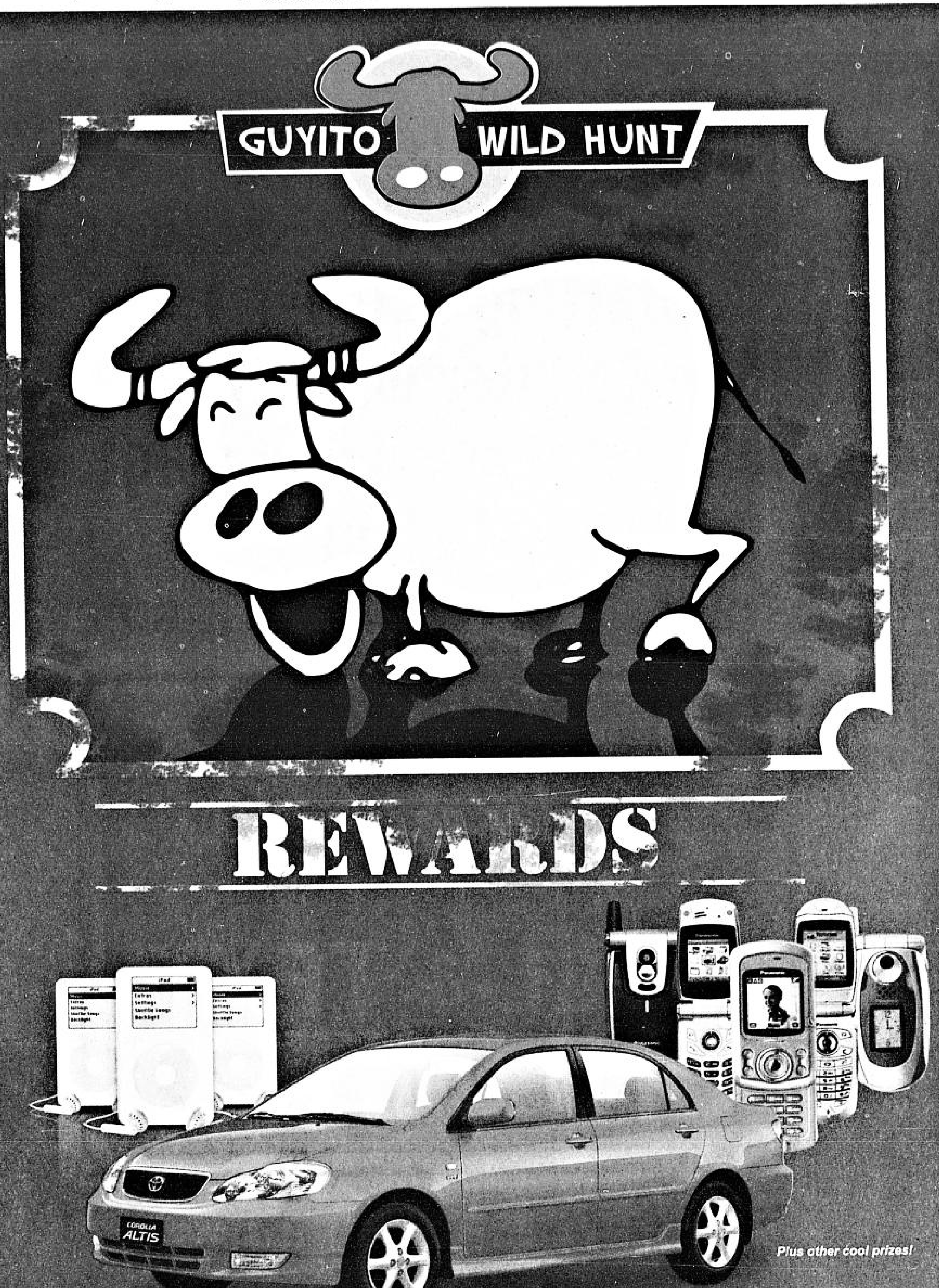


"GODDESS of the South 19/50," by Fil Delacruz is one of the print works on exhibit at Hiraya Gallery on UN Avenue.

"BAMBOO," by Cana, won the grand prize in the monthly art contest of the Saturday Group. The judge was art critic Cid Reyes (center) who poses with Saturday officers Merci Melchor, Remy Boquiren, Lydia Velasco, Malang and Buds Convocar. The painting is on exhibit at the Ali Mall Art Gallery in Cubao.



THE CHOICE Expression Gallery is holding "Art for Martha," a show to mark the 20th anniversary of Martha's Vineyard, until Sept. 30. Featured artists include National Artists Jose Joya, Arturo Luz and Vicente Manansala, as well as Lito Antonio, Tam Austria, Norma Belleza, Remy Boquiren, Eduardo Castrillo, Buds Convocar, Edsel Moscoso, Ramon Orlina, Fidel Sarmiento, Jack Salud and Oscar Zalameda. Guests of honor in the opening were Imelda O. Cojuangco, Conchita Salud, Manuel Lopez and Antonio Oppen. Call 8904516.



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Olympus MJU300
Finepix a202
Epson Printer
Blackberry 7230
Canon A70 Digicam
20 GB iPod

November Draw
20 GB iPod
HP dj450 Portable Printer
Olympus MJU400
Fujipix f402
Epson Printer
Panasonic X400
Motorola MPX 200
Motorola C380

Consolation
Palm Zire 72
IPAQ
Olympus 400
Finepix f401
Epson Printer
Panasonic X500
Panasonic X700
Blackberry 7230
Canon A70 Digicam
Motorola E398
Motorola C650
Motorola V3
40GB iPod
20GB iPod
Motorola C650
Panasonic X300
Palm Zire 31
Epson CX5300 Printer
Canon A70 Digicam

PROMO MECHANICS:

a) Each copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will contain a specially-marked coupon featuring Guyito, the broadsheet's illustrated carabao icon, hidden in one of the pages. The hidden Guyito will appear in the PDI daily from September 27 to December 14, 2004.

b) Participant can then cut-out the Guyito coupon, write down legibly his/her name, address, contact number and affix signature on the blanks provided, and send to Philippine Daily Inquirer offices or drop in drop boxes. Only original Guyito coupons will be considered valid entries. Original coupons are marked with the Guyito Wild Hunt promo logo.

c) Only one Guyito coupon will be featured in each Inquirer issue from Monday to Saturday. There will be two Guyito coupons featured in Inquirer every Sunday.

d) There are two ways to send entries:
  1. Mail to:
     Guyito Wild Hunt: Inquirer 19th Anniversary Promo
     c/o PDI Building Don Chino Roces Avenue,
     Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
  2. Drop in drop boxes located at the following:
     Robinsons Movieworld cinema lobbies (all branches)
     Glorietta mall
     Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby
     Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby
     Greenbelt 1 Cinema Lobby
     Greenbelt 1 Mall
     Greenbelt 3 Customer Service
     Greenbelt 3 Cinema Lobby
     Alabang Town Center Mall
     Alabang Town Center Cinema Lobby
     Ayala Center Cebu Mall
     Ayala Center Cebu Cinema Lobby
     Netopia (all branches)
     LBC (all branches)

e) For the monthly draws, deadline of entries are on October 17 and November 17. Monthly winners will be drawn on October 22 and November 22, 3pm, at the Philippine Daily Inquirer head office. Winners will be notified thru a phone call and registered mail from a Philippine Daily Inquirer representative. Non-winning entries per draw will be included in the succeeding draws. The list of monthly winners will be published within two weeks after the draw.

f) Deadline of entries for the grand draw is on December 14. Mailed-in entries must be received by December 17. Grand draw and consolation prize winners will be drawn on December 21, 2004 at 12nn. Grand prize winner will win a brand new Toyota Altis.

g) A winner can only win once per draw. If a name gets drawn more than once, he/she gets the prize of higher value. Prize categories are: monthly prize, consolation prize, and grand prize.

h) All winners below 18 years of age need to be with their legal guardian to claim prize. Both the minor and the parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also present proof that he/she is the legal guardian of the minor.

i) Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.

j) For more questions call Ms. Ching dela Cruz of Inquirer's Marketing Department at 897-8808 loc 237.

k) Metro Manila winners may claim their prizes at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City. Provincial winners may claim their prizes at the nearest Inquirer office indicated on the registered mail. Winners may claim their prize from October 18.

l) All winners must present the following to an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative:
  (1) Two valid IDs with complete real name, picture and correct address. Photocopies of any of the two documents (i.e. birth certificate, marriage contract, SSS ID, driver's license, school ID and/or passport) should be submitted upon claiming of prize.
  (2) Registered mail that the Philippine Daily Inquirer sent to the winner of the Guyito Wild Hunt raffle draw.
  (3) Representative's valid identification and authorization letter from the winner (if prize is claimed through a representative)

m) All prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification call and registered mail (whichever comes last) from an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative.

n) All unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.

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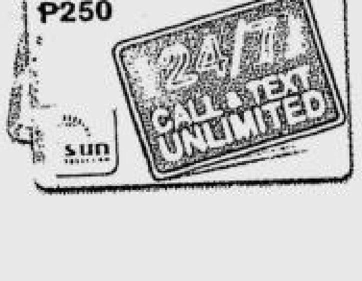

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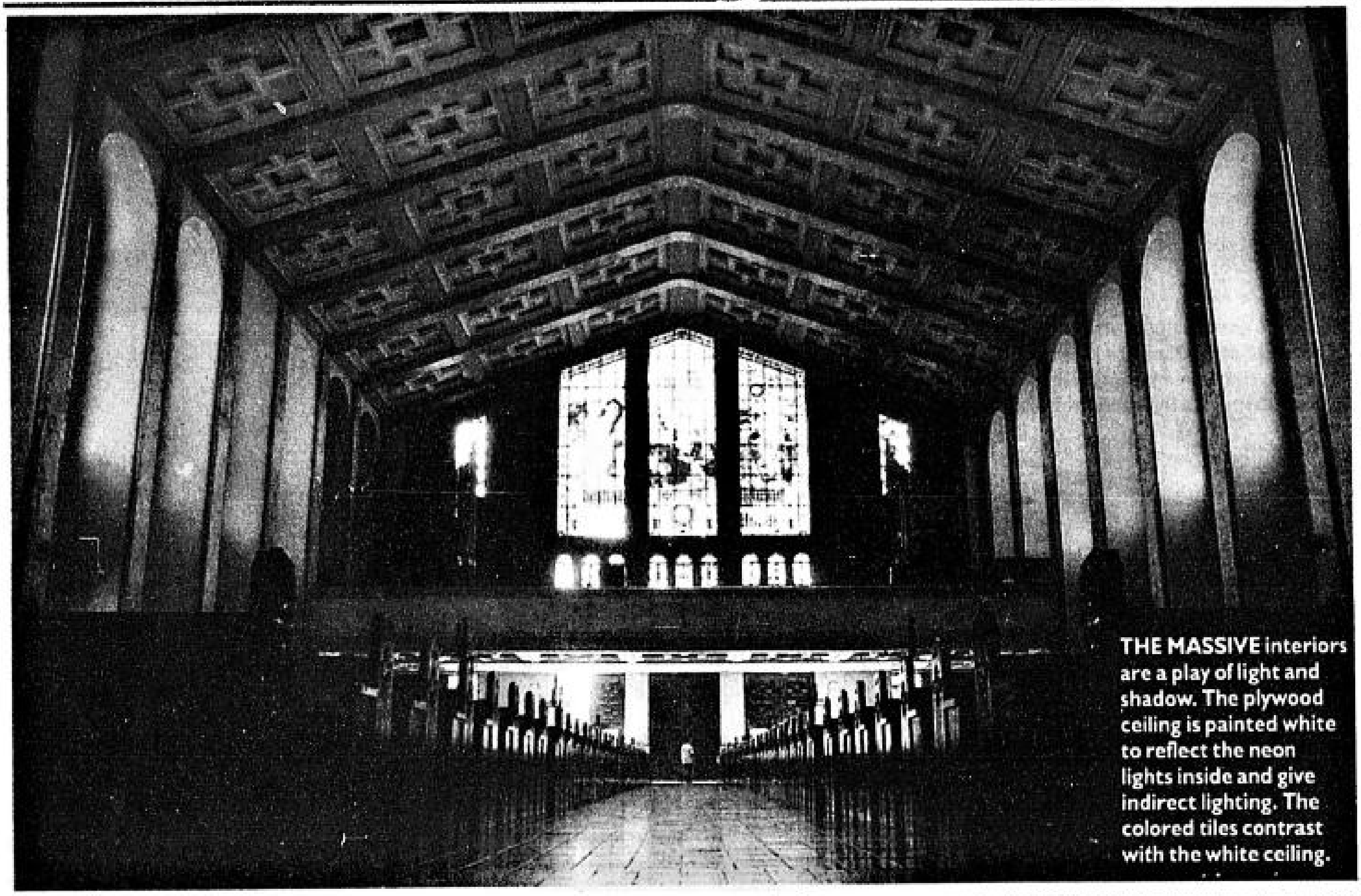

THE MASSIVE interiors are a play of light and shadow. The plywood ceiling is painted white to reflect the neon lights inside and give indirect lighting. The colored tiles contrast with the white ceiling.

Now 50 years old, the Santo Domingo Church in Quezon City remains 'new' and 'modern' amid so much tawdry architecture around

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House of Spirit

Text by Lito B. Zulueta
Photos by August de la Cruz

IT SURPRISES people to know that the Santo Domingo Church, easily one of the biggest and most important centers of faith in Catholic Philippines, was not originally in Quezon City, where it now stands as a definitive landmark. The original Santo Domingo used to be in Intramuros. According to the CCP Encyclopedia, the church was "one of the jewels of the treasure chest that was Intramuros."

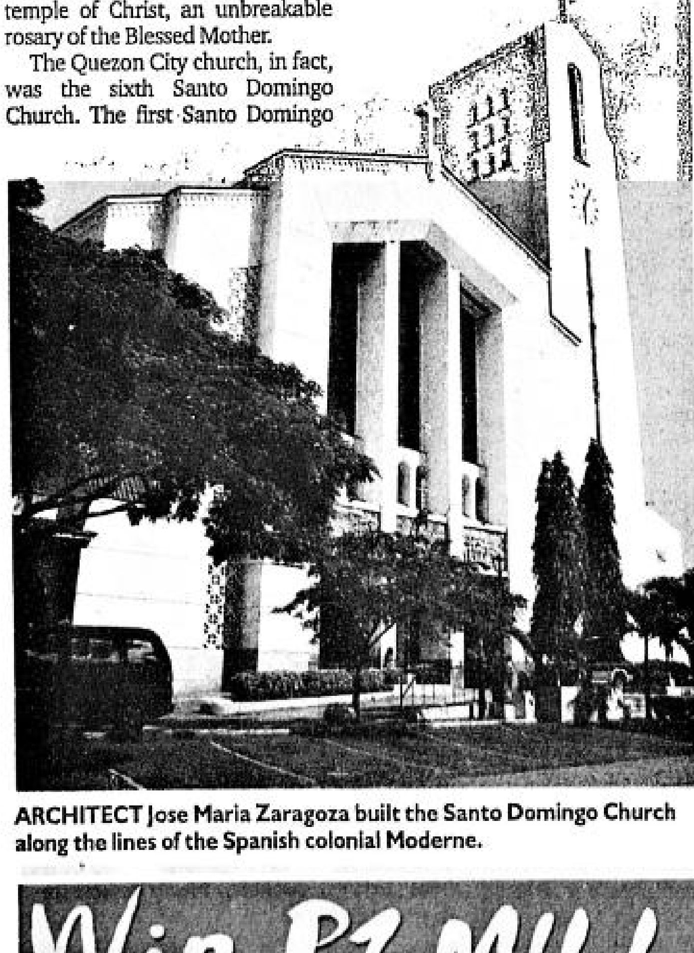
Intramuros was of course "the city of 10 churches," and Santo Domingo's relocation from there to "Extramuros" owes as much to the vicissitudes of war as well as the postwar expansion outside of Manila—to new horizons, new frontiers—much like the missionary spirit of the Dominicans and the other great religious orders, who braved the jungles and dangerous territories of the Philippines to make of the islands a vast green temple of Christ, an unbreakable rosary of the Blessed Mother.

The Quezon City church, in fact, was the sixth Santo Domingo Church. The first Santo Domingo was erected in 1588 from *nipa* and *cogon*, frail materials that naturally gave way to the elements, particularly to fire. In fact, the first church was gutted by fire in 1603, prefiguring the fiery history of the Dominican order in the Philippines.

Not fire, but seismic turbulence, however, greeted the next Santo Domingo structures, which were destroyed by earthquakes in 1619, 1862 and 1863. Each time the church was toppled, the Dominicans erected a more magnificent church, defiant as ever. The neo-gothic church that replaced the one toppled by the earthquake of 1863 was particularly noted for its majesty, easily the grandest in a district known for its grand churches.

It was this neo-gothic structure where Jose Rizal attended mass before boarding a ship to Spain to continue his studies. It was this structure that particularly impressed the new American colonizers. In the 1915 "Guide to Manila Catholic Churches" published by Norton, the church was described as "unusually attractive" with "a brilliant radiance": "Highly agreeable is the first impression of this church, with wide nave, groin vaulting; narrow side aisles sepa-

HOUSE/ D2



ARCHITECT Jose Maria Zaragoza built the Santo Domingo Church along the lines of the Spanish colonial Moderne.

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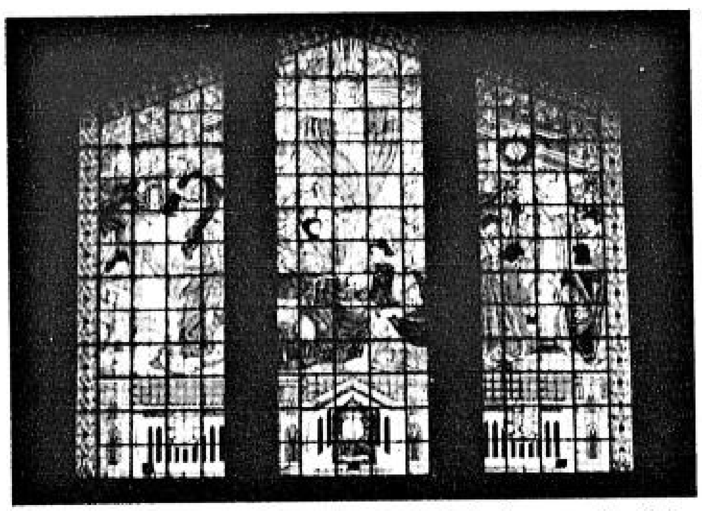
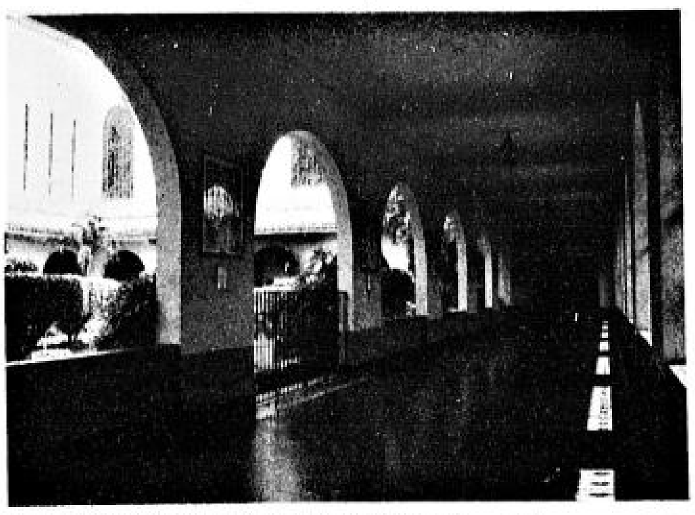


STAINED glass windows by Galo Ocampo depict the mysteries of the rosary.

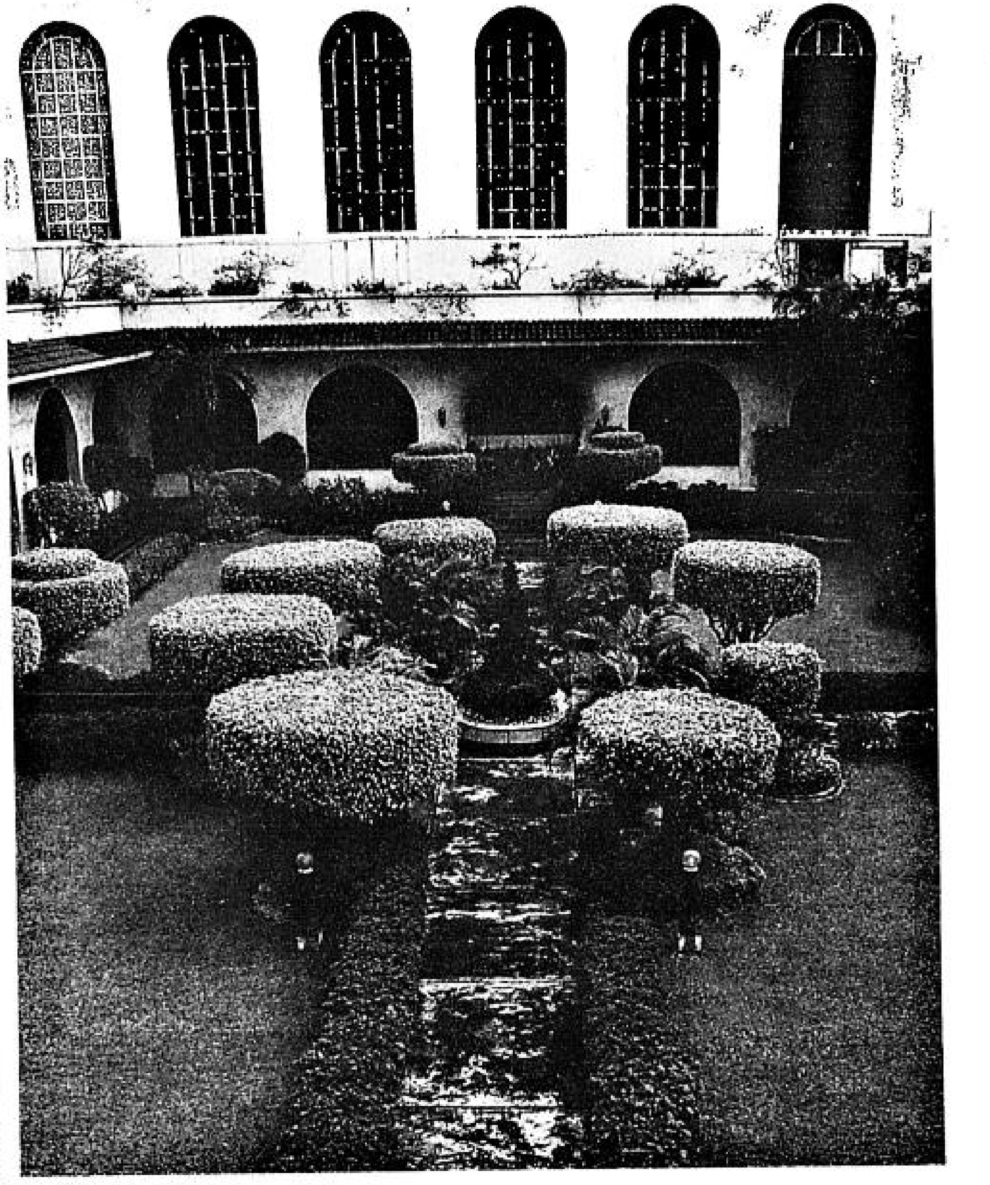
ORNATE gothic cupola on the altar alludes to the brilliant neogothic of the old Santo Domingo in Intramuros. During the La Naval feast in October, the huge Marian image is enthroned here, hoisted from the ground through a hydraulic elevator.



CORRIDOR leads to the *convento* and claustra

THE CHURCH'S right wing extends to the *convento*, with arches marked by the Dominican cross.

House of Spirit



TYPICAL of the Moorish-influenced Spanish mission house style, the Church-*convento* complex has a courtyard.

From page D1

rated by pillars, set wide apart (that) gives a very airy appearance... (with a) pulpit of fine workmanship, of molave and other rare native wood... (and in the chapel of Our Lady of the Rosary), the gallery of tracery work noticeable; and you are facing a beautiful altar where is standing in surroundings of artistic splendor, the image so famous in history, and now venerated as the patron of the islands."

For nearly a century, the gothic church withstood earthquakes, the Philippine revolution and the American invasion. But alas, it did not survive the Second World War. On Dec. 27, 1941, Japanese planes bombed Santo Domingo and laid it to rubble. But when the Dominicans cleared the debris, they recovered the image of Our Lady of La Naval, the icon of the Our Lady of the Holy Rosary that got its name after the Spaniards and Filipinos defeated the vastly superior invading Dutch armada in the 17th century. The image would later head the procession to symbolize Santo Domingo's relocation from Intramuros to Quezon City.

After the war, the Dominicans proceeded to build a new church in Quezon City. During the La Naval feast and procession on Oct. 10, 1954, the church was inaugurated. The image was taken to her new altar, and the Santo Domingo Church was also canonically erected as the National Shrine of the Holy Rosary in the Philippines.

Spanish Moderne

In building the new church, the Dominicans commissioned their protégé, architect Jose Ma. Zaragoza, who built the church according to the Moderne style that had been prevalent in the 1930s and 1940s, around the time he was an architecture student at the University of Santo Tomas.

His choice was radical. The Moderne style, which was short, was mainly employed in residential structures, in contrast to the earlier Art Deco, which was tall and used in commercial buildings. Thus, while the orientation of Art Deco was vertical, that of the Art Moderne was horizontal.

But the Santo Domingo was anything but short. Like any church structure, its initial thrust at spiritual magnificence was directed upwards, to the heavens. But because of the horizontal orientation of Moderne, the structure appears box-like and massive.

But Zaragoza's most important innovation was to combine the Moderne style with Spanish colonial architecture. In a nod to history, he designed the church in accordance with the Spanish Catholic mission style, attaching the priory of the Dominicans to the church and making the complex the headquarters of the Dominicans in the Philippines, much like the Santo Domingo in Intramuros, when it was the nerve center of Dominican evangelization in the islands.

The new Santo Domingo is the biggest of the Santo Domingo series. Compared with its predecessor, it is 18 feet wider, 13 feet longer, and 28 feet higher. Measuring 85 meters in length, 40 meters in width and 25 meters in height, it is easily one of the largest churches in the Philippines.

The church is spacious. The total floor area is 3,400 sq m, enough to accommodate more than 7,000 people. Its width gives it a cavernous and magnificent appearance. It has two lateral naves, each with a five-meter width.. Despite this, there is no column at the center for support, a construction feat even today.

Masterful works

The façade is notable for its massiveness and its clean lines. At the foot of the 44-meter tower is the relief of St. Dominic, carved by the Italian sculptor Francesco Monti. At the top of the entrance is a dramatic bas-relief of the Battle of La Naval, also by Monti.

Inside are beautiful stained-glass windows by Galo Ocampo, depicting the old 15 mysteries of the rosary. The windows are large, measuring some 21 sq m. A huge mosaic of St. Dominic constitutes the simple but imposing altar. The mosaic consists of colored stones imported from Italy and inlaid to form a big picture of the founder of the Order of Preachers.

Another series of windows has the pictures of the leading saints of the Dominican order, including St. Vicente Liem de la Paz, the protomartyr of Vietnam and an alumnus of Santo Tomas and Letran, and the Dominican martyrs of Indo-China, Japan and China.

The late National Artist Carlos "Botong" Francisco depicted important incidents in the life of St. Dominic in colorful murals at the cupola. Eight in all, the murals in the cupolas measure three meters wide by nine meters long.

On the corners of the cupola are the figures of the four evangelists, done in vivid brown tones by Antonio Garcia Llamas.

The church has natural ventilation. The special plywood ceiling is perforated to allow the escape of hot air. Together with the 13 side doors and the three main doors, the perforated ceiling hastens the refraction of air inside the church.

The plywood ceiling is also painted white to permit the reflection of the neon lights inside, and thus give indirect lighting to the whole interior. This is arranged in such a way that there is no dark nook or corner in the church.

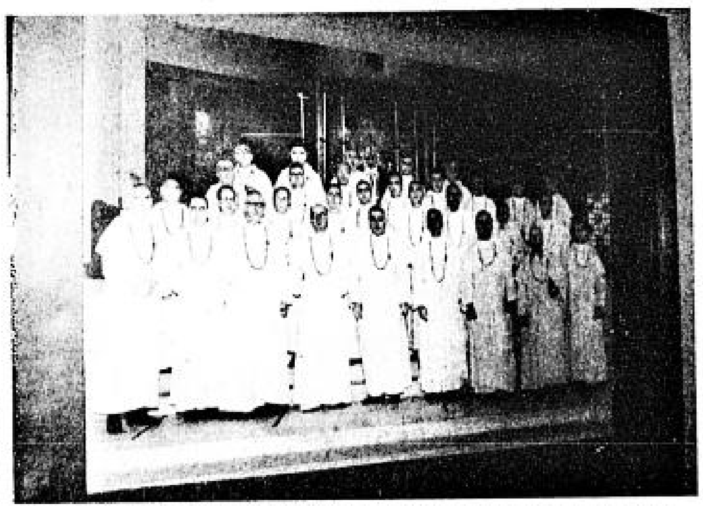
There are actually 2,000 40-watt fluorescent lamps that, however, cannot be seen. The dome is illuminated by a 1,000-watt floodlight. Neon lights at the cove above the altar brighten the altar during mass.

Contrasted against the vast white ceiling are colored tiles imported from Spain and Belgium.

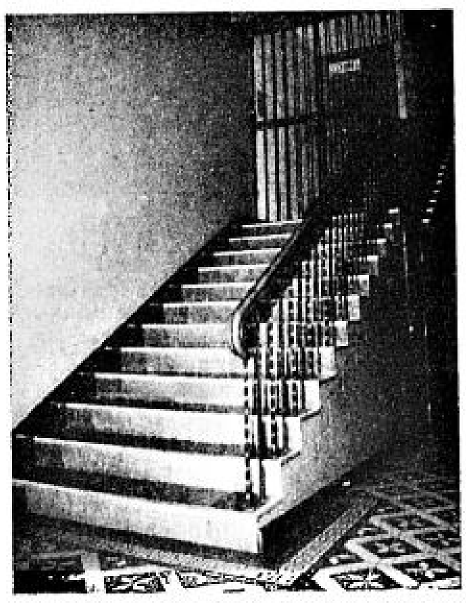
Aside from the main altar dedicated to St. Dominic, an altar houses the La Naval, resplendent in its elaborate robe and jewelry, and another altar is dedicated to St. Martin de Porres, the mulatto saint of the poor.

When it was opened in 1954, the Dominicans called the church a "modern" home for Our Lady, one that would update the devotion to the Blessed Mother amid criticisms that the Church belonged to more backward times. But 50 years later, the Santo Domingo Church remains new and modern amid so much tawdry architecture. It is a timeless showcase of artistry and spirituality.

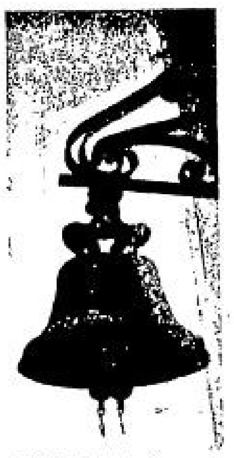
The Santo Domingo Church will mark its 50th year in Quezon City with a High Mass at 6 p.m. on Sept. 30. Celebrants are Fr. Ernesto Arceo, O.P., prior provincial of the Filipino Dominicans, and Fr. Herminio Dagohoy, O.P., rector of Santo Domingo Church and La Naval Shrine. The public is invited.



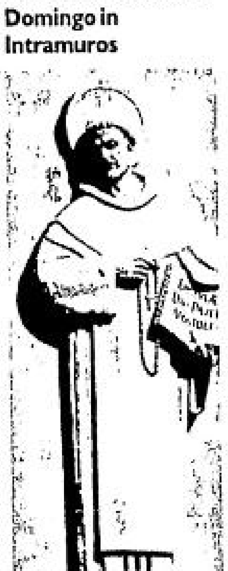
OLD PHOTO of Spanish Dominicans at the time of the erection of the church, led by the prior provincial at that time, Fr. Silvestre Sancho, O.P.



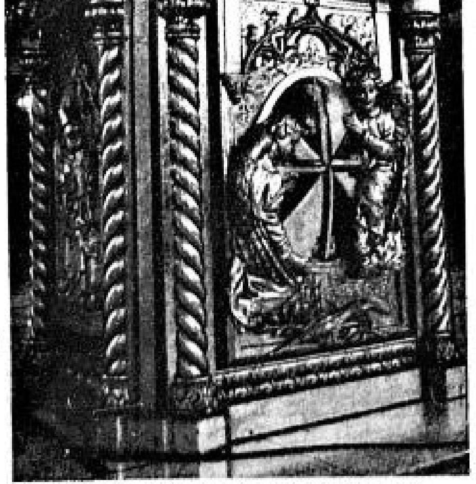
ELEGANT stair leads to the Dominican friars' quarters.



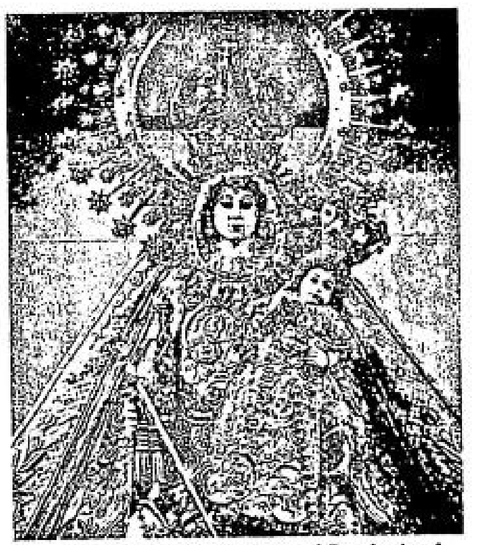
ONE of the bells melted and refashioned from the old bells of the Santo Domingo in Intramuros



GIANT relief of St. Dominic by the Italian sculptor Monti at the foot of the tower



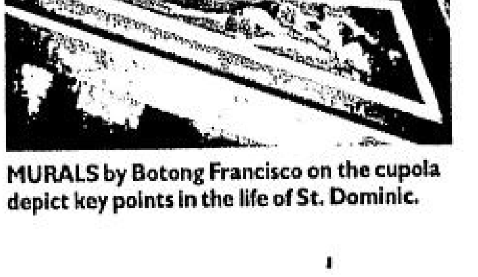
FINELY gilded rostrum shows the martial black-and-white Dominican seal.



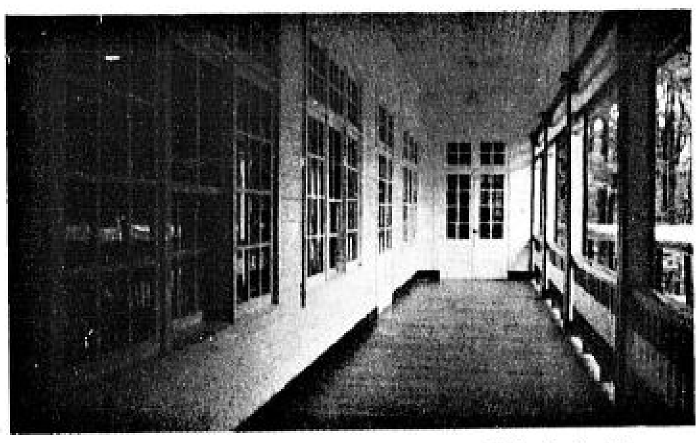
LA JAPONESA, another icon of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary similar to La Naval.

LIFE-SIZE stone angels stand on the main portal, ready with the obligatory holy water for symbolic ablution.

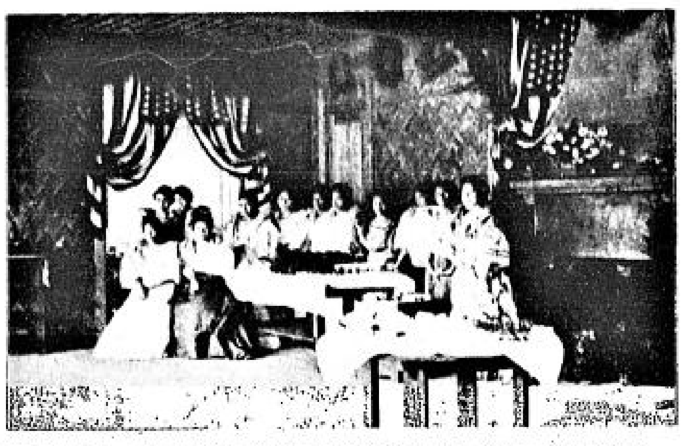
BRILLIANT bas-relief by Monti depicts the Battle of La Naval



MURALS by Botong Francisco on the cupola depict key points in the life of St. Dominic.

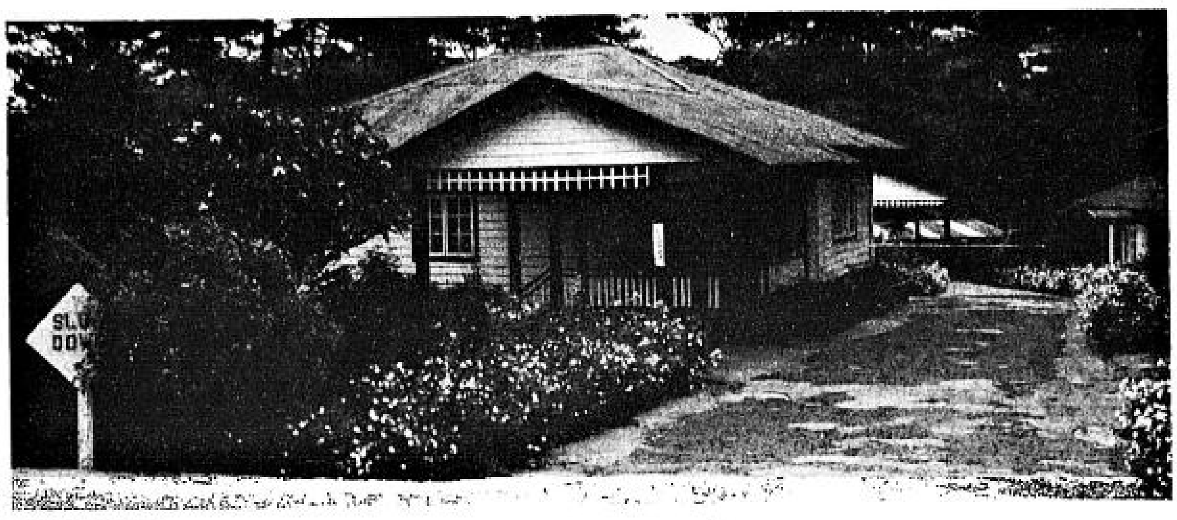


WIDE verandah frames Albert Hall, the present dining hall of the camp.



FILIPINO teachers in their Teachers' Camp dormitory, circa 1912

AMERICAN teachers socializing over lunch



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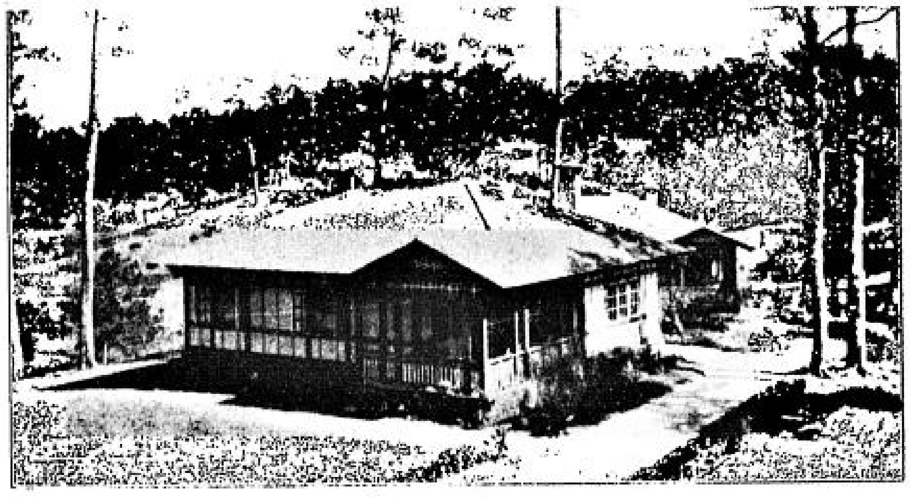


DIRECTOR'S cottage then

Heritage plan to revitalize Teachers' Camp in Baguio

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

AS part of the Heritage Schoolhouses Restoration Program, the Department of Education has engaged consultants from the Heritage Conservation Society to prepare a conservation plan for Teachers' Camp in Baguio City.

Since Teachers' Camp figures prominently in the history of the DepEd, the joint project aims to restore major buildings and to recapture the lost ambiance in time for the Teachers' Camp centennial in 2008.

Although the Spaniards had already established an educational system in the country (University of Samto Tomas; Letran, Santa Isabel and Concordia Colleges are the oldest Western-style schools in Asia), one of the earliest actions of the United States government after taking over the Philippines at the dawn of the 20th century was to send American teachers to revamp the educational system.

The Thomasites (named after one of their transport ships, the Thomas) were young volunteers who came to the distant Philippines, eager to spread the English language and to educate young Filipinos with American values.

The Thomasites zealously fanned out all over the country in pursuit of their mission but had difficulties with the tropical weather that drained their spirits and impaired their health.

Teachers' Camp was established in the new mountain city of Baguio as a recreational and training facility where American bodies attacked by strange disease-bearing insects and wilted by tropical heat and humidity could be restored by spending the summer period in the cool climate 1,400 m above sea level.

Like all other European colonial governments in Asia, Americans believed that health could be best preserved in the tropics by frequent visits to the cooler climate of high-altitude rest and resort centers called Hill Stations, the raison d'etre of such cities as Baguio in the Philippines, Simla and Darjeeling in India, the Cameron Highlands in Malaysia, Bogor in Java and Bukkittinggi in Sumatra, and Dalat in Viet Nam.

Colonial showcases

Hill Stations were colonial showcases. They were summer capitals, seats of imperialism picturesquely laid out along forested peaks. Most mountain retreats were cities laid out by important planners brought over from the mother country. The buildings followed a distinctive, picturesque type of architecture associated with the foreigners' faraway homes.

In Simla, the image is of Imperial India where scaled-down stone buildings recall England's mighty government structures and rambling country houses. Half-timbered Tudor is the predominant architectural theme in Malaysia's Cameron Highlands.

Baguio was no exception, envisioned as it was as an American masterpiece. The city was planned by the eminent Daniel Burnham of Chicago, who laid out roads that followed the mountaintop contours that led to specific urban focal points but always looped back to Session Road.

Most of the points except the long-vanished Government Center survive: the Baguio City Hall overlooking Burnham Park, and Mansion House overlooking Wright Park.

Teachers' Camp was one of the many colonial trophies set off by the mountain ambiance of Baguio.

"The first assembly at Teachers' Camp was on April 6, 1908, when the Bureau of Education began to hold sessions in the famed Baguio Teachers' Camp where hundreds of American and Filipino public-school instructors flocked each year for rest and continuing education," Robert Reed wrote in 1999.

"For several years the teachers were forced to live, eat and attend lectures in tents. By 1913, Teachers' Camp was the site of several large and permanent dormitories, fine athletic fields, and substantial mess and social halls."

Most of the buildings in the 23-ha Teachers' Camp were destroyed during World War II. The structures existing today were rebuilt or rehabilitated by the War Damage Commission.

Teachers' Camp structures follow the original architectural style of the early American colonial structures in Baguio: low wooden buildings painted white with green trim around doors and windows. Stone chimneys punctuate green roofs.

The scenic, picturesque style fits perfectly with the hilltop terrain covered with green pines, and gives the city its special charm and a strong visual identity.

Fortunately, most of the Teachers' Camp buildings are still in the green-and-white Baguio style. This will be preserved in the Conservation Plan being prepared by the Heritage Conservation Society.

The plan aims to set guidelines for the conservation of buildings and landscape before undertaking actual conservation and restoration of the buildings in strict accordance with principles established by international organizations. A manual will specify a system of maintenance to assure that the conserved structures will not deteriorate.

The camp has 12 dormitories that can accommodate 1,500 guests, and 47 cottages that accommodate 450 guests. Other facilities are two mess halls and eight conference halls. Although its primary purpose is to provide a venue for teacher training during summer, the camp accepts bookings for large public conferences and seminars.

Call 074-442-3517.

> The scenic, picturesque style of the camp fits perfectly with the hilltop terrain

Heritage update

A reader wrote that "while driving along N. Domingo Sreet in San Juan, I noticed that the Spanish-period masonry aqueduct of San Juan, built in 1883 by Genaro Palacios of the Inspeccion General de Obras Publicas, has been demolished. This bridge with six adobe arches was a major part of the Carriedo waterworks that supplied water to Manila from Montalban through San Juan. Our concern for heritage structures is, indeed, lamentable.

"This bridge could have been saved in spite of government efforts in shoring and dredging the flood-prone San Juan River. But again our officials are dead bent in removing traces of the past instead of thinking of its possible contribution to the community as a whole.

"This bridge, which stood for 120 years, served the people of Manila well and could have been preserved as a memento of that contribution. Anyway, too late for anything now because not a trace is left of this monument."

E-mail the author at afvillalon@hotmail.com

DIET GUIDE FOR DIABETICS

Choosing your food wisely and adopting sensible eating habits can help you manage your Diabetes. The types of food a Diabetic eats is more important particularly when it comes to carbohydrate-rich items because during digestion, carbohydrates are broken down first and affect blood glucose the fastest.

In order to make the right choices, using the Glycemic Index (GI) is strongly encouraged. The Glycemic Index measures how quickly food that contain carbohydrates raise blood glucose levels. The GI ranks food on a scale of 0 to 100. Foods with a number of 70 or more are classified as high GI, 55 to 70 are considered moderate GI, and 55 or less are labeled low GI.

Foods with high GI are those that are quickly digested and absorbed, resulting in a greater rise in blood glucose levels. These are not recommended for people afflicted with Diabetes. Low GI foods, assuming they are also in fat, are best for the control of Diabetes. They produce a gradual rise in blood glucose and insulin levels because of their slow rate of digestion, absorption, and gradual release of glucose into the bloodstream. Examples of these are apples, peanuts, yogurt, milk and milk products, and barley.

Cutting out all high GI foods will not make your diet perfect. You must think about the overall balance of your meals. The total amount of carbohydrate, the amount and type of fat, and the fiber and salt content of food are also very important considerations.

Cut down on the fat you eat, particularly animal fats, as this type of fat is linked to heart disease. Use less butter, margarine, and cheese. Choose low fat dairy foods like skimmed milk and low fat yogurt. And bear in mind that the healthier cooking method are grilling, steaming, and even over baking instead of frying or cooking with oil or other fats.

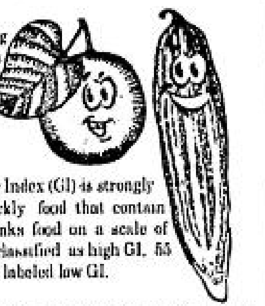
Aim for at least five portions of fruits and vegetables per day in order to get sufficient vitamins and fiber.

Avoid sugar and sugary foods that cause blood glucose levels to rise quickly. Remember that all confectionery, cakes and biscuits are high in fat and calories and need to be limited according to the individual. Reduce your intake of salt to avoid any drastic rise in your blood pressure. Instead, experiment with herbs and spices for flavoring.

Two units of alcohol per day for a woman and three units per day for a man is enough. Alcohol can make hypoglycemia (low blood glucose levels) likely to occur.

If you are on the heavy side, losing weight will help you control your Diabetes and will also reduce your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke. Aim to lose weight slowly over time rather than crash dieting.

To achieve maximum results, reinforce your diet and physical activities with **Genial Dew Guava and Ampalaya Herbal Tea.** Daily consumption of this perfect blend of Guava fruit and leaves, Ampalaya leaves, Ku Ting Tea, To Tea, and Millet Beard can alleviate the progress and prevent complications of Diabetes and Hypertension.



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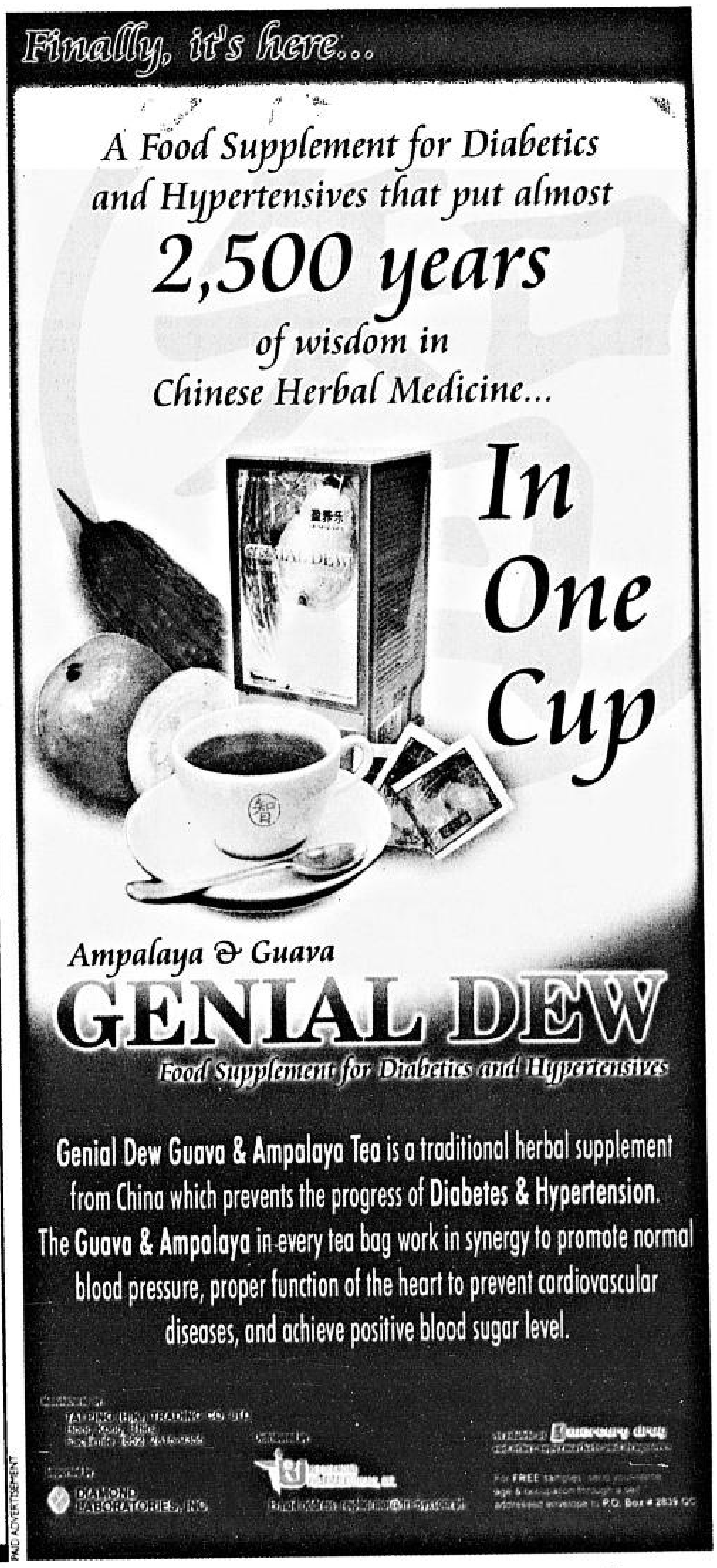

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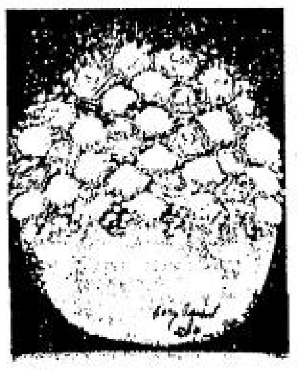
Newsbreak holds Newsmakers Auction

THE NEWSMAKERS' Auction will be held on Oct. 7, 6 p.m., at Dreambar Café, 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati. Donors of items for auction include Corazon Aquino (painting), Fidel Ramos (set of books), Anita Magsaysay-Ho (lithograph), Don Jaime Zobel Ayala (photography books), Education Secretary Florencio Abad (mirror framed in 75-year-old *narra*), Chief Justice Hilario Davide (three-volume book set of major Supreme Court rulings), Patty Araneta (products from Mindanao) and Evelyn Forbes (Taiping rug). There will also be items from Gen. Narciso Abaya and Ces Drilon.

Sponsored by Newsbreak magazine, the auction is part of a cocktail party in honor of friends and supporters of Newsbreak, which is now on its fourth year.

Proceeds from the auction will go to the Independent Journalism Fund, which will support Newsbreak's coverage of government, business and the economy, peace and order, health, education and others.

Call 6875528, 6875524 or 6875523.



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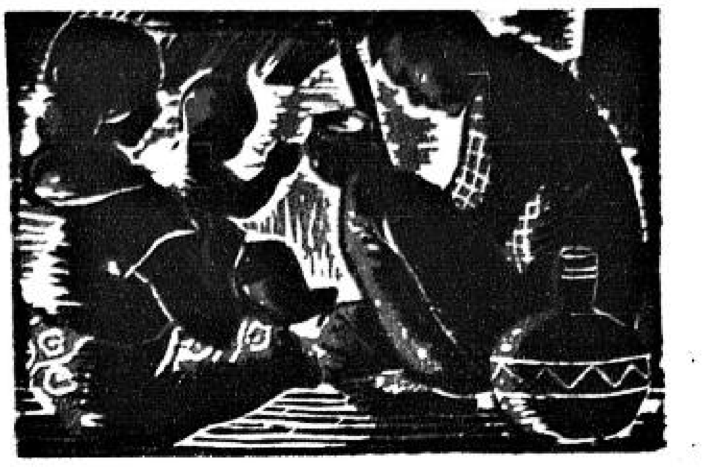

LITHOGRAPHY by Anita Magsaysay-Ho

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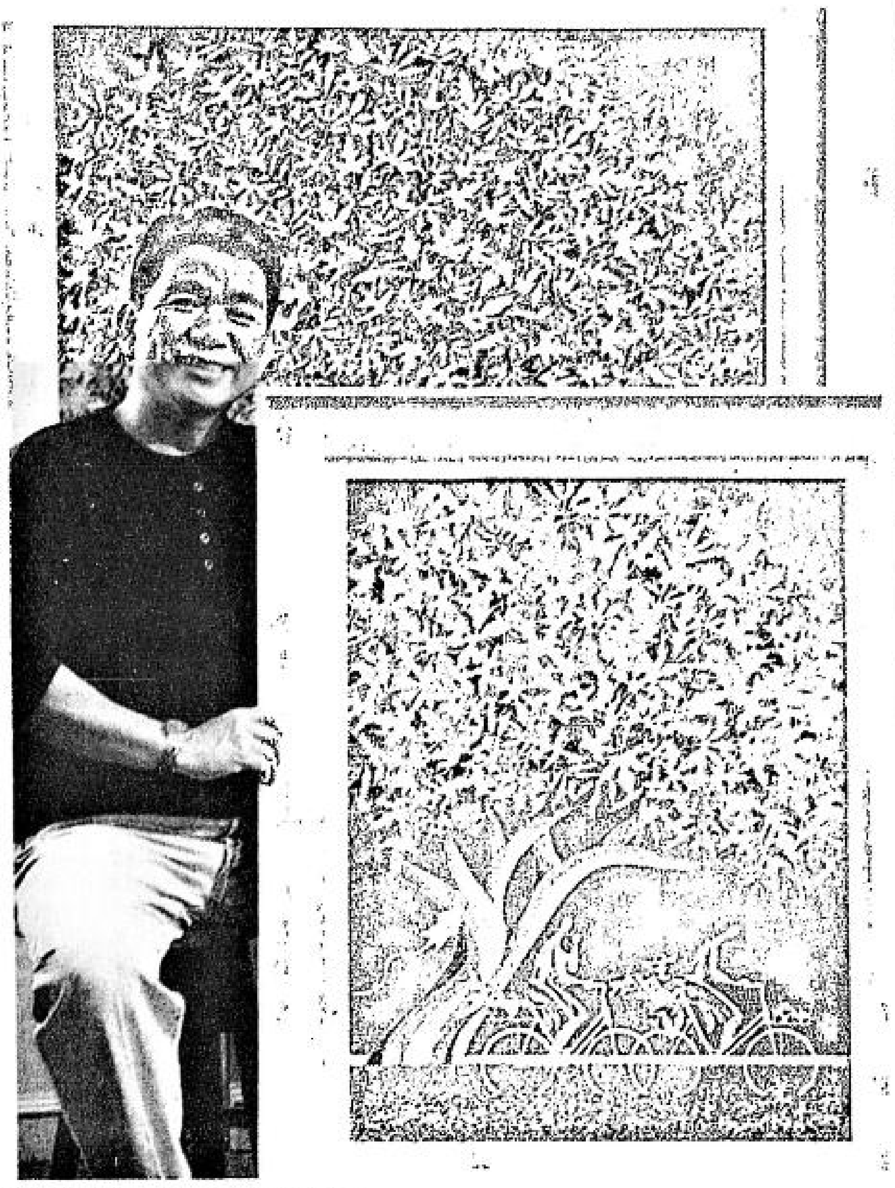


"SHADES of Summer," Series no. 6

Sta. Ana's brilliant colors at 828

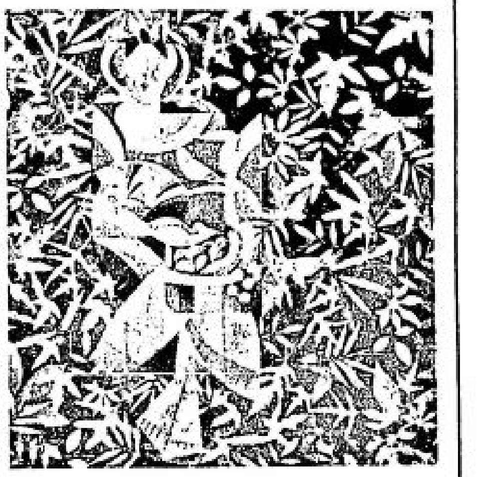
ERNIE Sta. Ana is holding "My Life, So Far," at the 828 Gallery, Art Plaza, 4/L, Shangri-La Plaza. The show consists of over 50 pieces in acrylic.

A former advertising artist, Sta. Ana has degrees in interior design from the Philippine School of Interior Design and fine arts from the University of Santo Tomas.

The new exhibit pays tribute to nature, mothers and women. As in the past, there is a harmonious blending of colors and a minimalist preoccupation with space.

The figures may initially look minuscule compared to the space in his canvases. But they are dynamic, ever-flowing and life-enhancing. One senses in them the continuing flow of life, an affirmation of the joys of art-making, a commitment to continue the journey despite the odds.

"My Life, So Far" runs until Oct. 10. Call 6375795 or 6375796.



"MOTHER Nature II Series"

QC parish unveils new artwork

THE ARTISTS of Betis, Pampanga continue the storied tradition of the Baroque style, which is characterized by exaggerated features, bizarre details and rich ornamentation, through their unique renditions of religious subjects and *retablos* in churches.

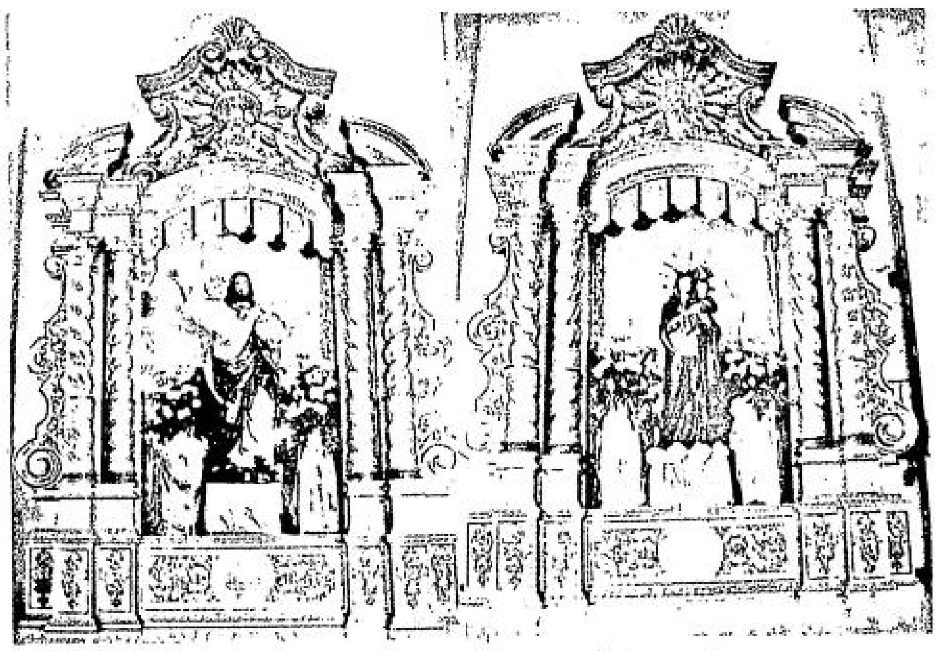
Among Betis's numerous artisans, the most outstanding is the award-winning woodcarver-painter-sculptor Willy Layug. Layug and Betis Galleria have beautified churches, homes, corporate headquarters and schools with their works.

Layug, 44, was commissioned to do the *retablo* for the Most Holy Redeemer Parish on Brixton Hill, near Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. The *retablo* was unveiled last Sept. 19 for the parish's 50th anniversary celebrations.

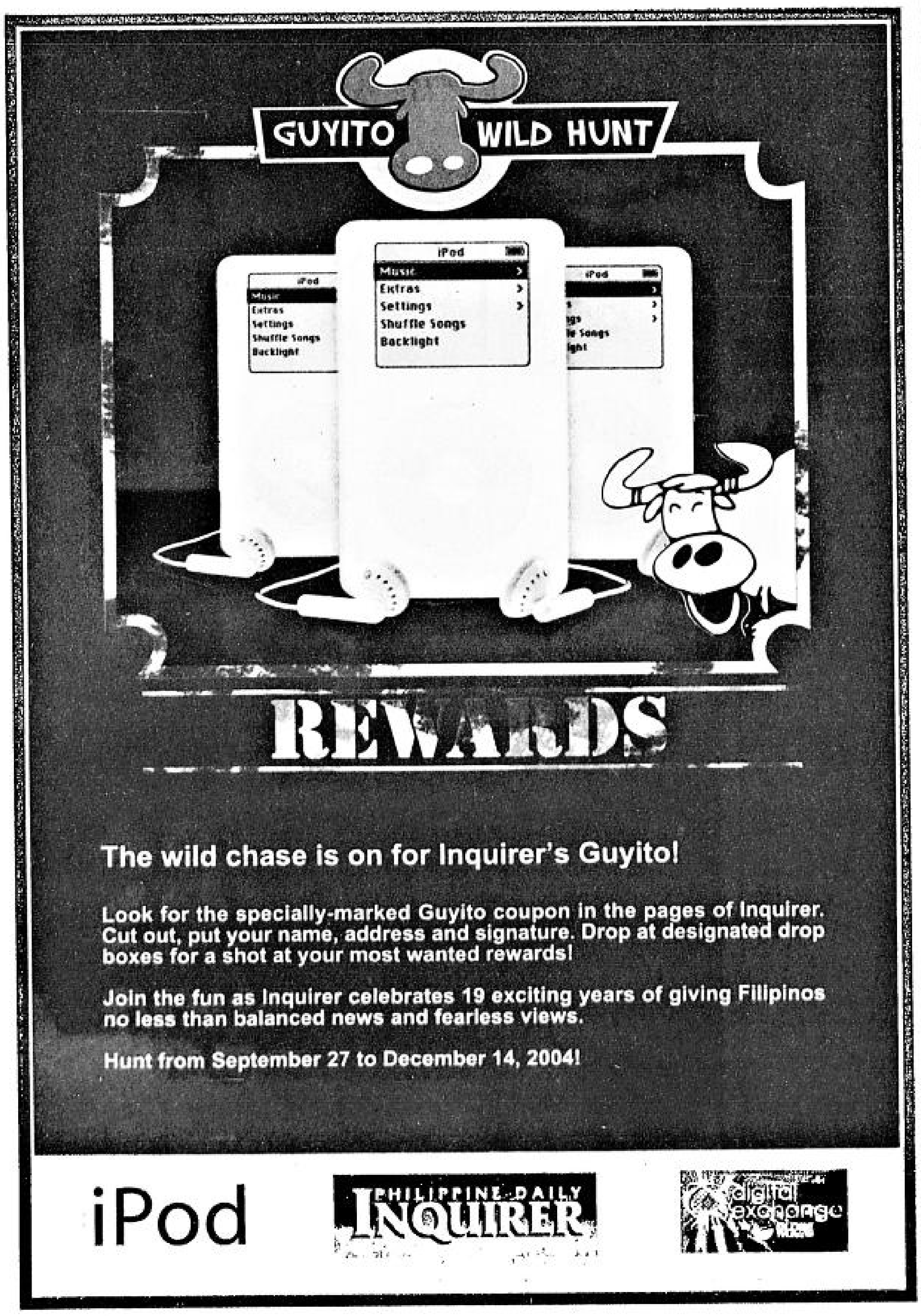
The *retablo* features the Risen Christ, the Most Holy Redeemer, a bas relief of the Nativity, an altar table with the logo of the Heart of Jesus and portraits of the evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Last Sept. 19 also witnessed the groundbreaking and laying of the time capsule for the construction of a home for retired priests called "Bahay Pari."

Call 7323783, 7122266 or 7160464.



RETABLO for the Most Holy Redeemer Parish on Brixton Hill, Quezon City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Not just kiddie talk

By Gibbs Cadiz

FOR A 27-YEAR-OLD theater institution with a glittering record of acclaimed productions behind it, you'd think Gantimpala Theater Foundation would have its own comfortable theater, production and rehearsal space by now—something due it, at the very least, for having immeasurably enriched Philippine theater.

It comes as a shock, therefore, to see the cast members of the company's new production, "Pepe en Pilar," rehearsing one humid afternoon in a drab, worn-down building in Luneta, crammed into a hall no bigger than half a basketball court with chipped, grimy floor tiles, a smattering of plastic chairs, and the kind of stale, unmoving air redolent of buildings long past their prime.

The sight is an eloquent reminder of how far this country needs to go to give its talented artists the same recognition and respect it routinely lavishes on celebrities, sports heroes and society interlopers.

School tie-up

Mention this sorry fact to director Jun Pablo, however, and he just laughs. "You should have seen our rehearsal space when we were in Makati," he says. "It was even smaller!"

Such is the lot of virtually all theater companies in this country, even the government-subsidized Tanghalang Pilipino at the Cultural Center of the Philippines where Gantimpala and the late Rolando Tinio's Teatro Pilipino also had their roots, before being eased out and cast adrift after the change of government in 1986.

Incredibly, Gantimpala has stayed afloat mostly through ticket sales. Its core audience is made up of high school and college students whose curriculum is enriched by exposure to Gantimpala's recurring productions of such essential 'Filipino classics as "Noli" and "Fili," "Florante at Laura" and "Ibong Adarna."

"We also produce shows based on the works of our National Artists such as Nick Joaquin, as well as Tagalog productions and all-original musicals," says Pablo.

"Pepe en Pilar" is one such musical. Written by Joel Lamangan (with Buddy Palad) before his rise as a noted film director, and with original music by Bong Rosario, Roy Regalado and Vincent de Jesus, it was first presented 14 years ago using only one plain keyboard for musical accompaniment.

"Now, we have new arrangements for the music, and we're mounting the show again and doing the rounds of schools beginning Sept. 29. It's our entry to the National Theater Festival at the CCP this November," says Pablo.

Sweet-voiced but powerful

What has not changed is the show's message, then as now a sweet-voiced but powerful tract that explores a number of issues many people would find still relevant and thought-provoking.

"It's a children's play, but the lyrics are very political," says Pablo. "This is a Joel Lamangan work, after all. It talks of children's rights, poverty, parent-child relationships, the interaction of kids from different

NOT JUST/E3

> Gantimpala Theater Foundation's revival of 'Pepe en Pilar' pays homage to the stark and delicate wisdom of children

THE CAST of Gantimpala Theater Foundation's new production of "Pepe en Pilar," written by Joel Lamangan and Buddy Palad and first staged 14 years ago. A school tour begins Sept. 29 at St. Scholastica's College, Manila.

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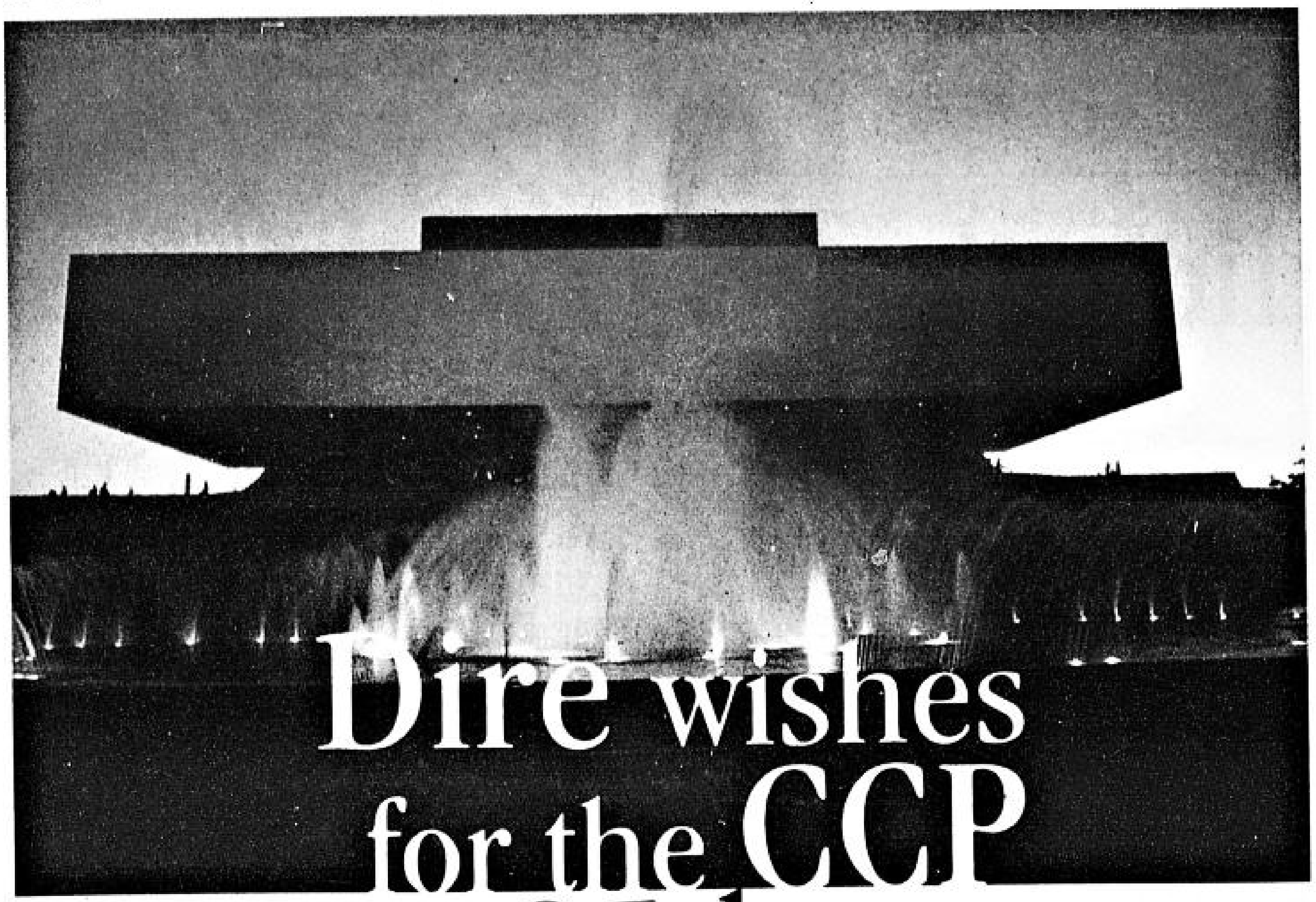


Dire wishes for the CCP on its 35th year

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines, which is now on its 35th year, has a new set of board of trustees headed by advertising leader Emily Abrera, who had noticed yawning empty seats during the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra's opening concert.

The CCP also has a brand new chime, the bell you hear when the concert is about to start and when intermission is over. But someone mistook the new chime for an incidental music from "Mano Po 3," "Feng Shui" and "M. Butterfly" (the straight play).

Through a contest, the CCP tried to get a new name (something to duplicate the appeal of Singapore's Esplanade), but the entries didn't impress. The entries I saw ranged from National Prison for the Arts and Pambansang Kanlungan ng Sining.

What is wrong with Sentrong Pangkultura ng Pilipinas or its English equivalent, the Cultural Center of the Philippines? Nothing.

But from what I heard, President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted a name that would make CCP less elitist—as though a new name for the temple of the arts would make it any closer to the masses, considering her obvious indifference to the arts.

The CCP is many things to many people.

For me, it was where I first heard and saw the greatest living artists of this planet: Placido Domingo, Montserrat Caballe, the Romanian diva Nelly Miricioiu, and our very own Evelyn Mandac, Lilia Reyes, Eleanor Calbes and Conching Rosal, Noel Velasco and Otoniel Gonzaga.

The CCP was where I witnessed the timeless art of dance legends Maya Plisetskaya, Alicia Alonso, Yoko Morishita and our very own Maniya Barredo, Anna Villadolid and Lisa Macuja.

The CCP was where I first heard Leventritt Gold medalists Gary Graffman, Van Cliburn and our Cecile Licad.

But at some point of its 35 years of existence, CCP became an embarrassment.

The CCP was where I saw an outgoing CCP head, being dragged out of the lobby by the security guards on orders of an incoming CCP head, in full view of the diplomatic corps. An editor called the incident "the night of the barbarians."

Artist Danny Dalena, the very epitome of "*dangal ng bayan*" with his original Filipino *bakya*, *camisa de chino* and turn-of-the-century Paete pants, was denied entry because the CCP guards could not imagine a *bakya* entering the temple of the arts.

In the early '80s, an usher refused to honor my CCP theater pass signed by then CCP president Lucrecia Kasilag. It was the night of the Cecile Licad concert with the Royal Philharmonic (of London). I was somehow assuaged when the usher went back to folk dancing for the Bayanihan.

Despite the warts, the CCP, to many artists, was where they got their formal and soft debuts, where they got their first good reviews, and where they came to terms with being Filipino artists.

THE PHILIPPINE Philharmonic during the time of conductor Oscar Yatco

Wishes

I wish that on its 35th year, CCP would skip the lunch and raffle prizes and have substantial dialogue with people who cover the arts and get their inputs on the state of the arts and of artists of this country.

My wishes:

1. For the CCP to monitor the state and progress of emerging young artists who figure prominently in national competitions like the National Music Competition for Young Artists (Namcya).

Prize-winners are hardly exposed to national audiences and end up begging for transport and boarding allowance when their overseas scholarships are approved.

Namcya winner Victor Michael Coo—who won cello concerto competitions abroad and got a chamber music prize from a festival in France—is ripe for the Filipino Artists Series and even the PPO series. He is playing Dvorak, Elgar and Saint-Saens concertos in world tours. But the prospect of him getting the PPO's attention is nil because CCP-based musician-administrators don't venture outside of management committee meetings.

Parents of prizewinners are distraught over the fact that a career in the arts in this country is an invitation to poverty.

2. Repair rotting CCP grand pianos and make them available for touring artists.

From what I hear, there are more than 17 grand pianos at the CCP bodegas and only four or five are usable.

As house policy, these usable pianos can't be taken outside CCP premises. Can't the CCP repair those non-functioning pianos and make them available to artists for outreach concerts? After all, the CCP is mandated to serve the needs of the Filipino artists and not the whims of piano caretakers.

Last March, I spent P75,000 to rent a full grand piano that traveled from Manila to Baguio for a Cecile Licad outreach concert. I spent the same amount for grand pianos traveling from Manila to Laoag to Tuguegarao, Nueva Ecija and Legazpi City so as to give the countryside a glimpse of a national treasure.

We spend millions for scholarships for our promising artists, and when they get extraordinarily good and become famous and worthy of National Artists Award, they come back to play for the masses in the countryside only to be confronted with pianos that are national embarrassments.

The CCP holds endless mancom (management committee) meetings to decide whether a grand piano should move outside CCP premises for the use of a Cecile Licad. If I had completely abided with this CCP rule and did not turn to private suppliers of piano, Cecile Licad would not have been heard in Bicol, Cagayan, Nueva Ecija, Antipolo and Tagaytay.

With the fiscal crisis compounding CCP's economic woes, the country's leading venue for the performing arts is not a place to earn these days.

If you are a prizewinner, you no longer get a free venue (only two private entities give free venues to promising talents in this country: the Equitable PCI Bank's Francisco Santiago Hall and the MCO Foundation and Philamlife Theater).

You will get a small discount for theater rentals but you have to hire the national orchestra (at P75,000 per rehearsal and P100,000 per performance).

If you come from a poor family and have exhausted the family savings on piano and violin lessons and master classes, spending P400,000 for one performance to be able to play with an orchestra (after winning a national competition) is the height of folly.

In Singapore and many parts of Europe, prizewinners are given showcase concerts sponsored by the state. For even established and seasoned artists, the CCP is the place to perform because of its facilities.

But the CCP can no longer afford round-trip air tickets for visiting artists. It can only afford honorarium for soloists.

Now you know why classical musicians end up in casino and hotel lounges rather than in the august halls of the country's leading temple of the arts.

3. My last wish: peace and harmony within PPO ranks.

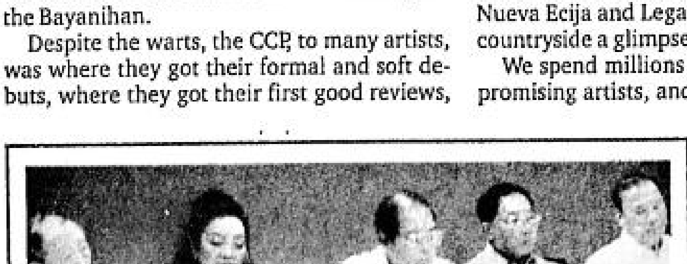
Audiences of the PPO opening concert probably wondered why a section of the orchestra did not acknowledge the conductor during the curtain call. It turned out there was a silent mutiny in the orchestra ranks. (Castillo had remarked that Filipino artists "lacked fire.")

The new PPO music director promised not just to be a conductor but a living ambassador of goodwill of the CCP. But he should first foster goodwill among his own orchestra's ranks.

The well-wishers Castillo ignored backstage (his attention was obviously reserved only for the CCP board of trustees) after his opening concert certainly did not think highly of him.

So what is there to celebrate for Filipino artists on CCP's 35th year? The other cultural sectors should have their opinions on the matter.

E-mail the author at pabloopera@yahoo.com



THE ALEJANDRO Mechor Jr. Foundation's Center for Transformational Nation-Building had its first roundtable discussion recently at the AIM Policy Center, on "Transformational Approach to Philippine Economic Development." The paper on "Mass Capitalism" was presented by Arthur M. Alvenida. Participants were: Washington Sycip, Rosario P. Melchor, Robert de Ocampo, chair of the Melchor Foundation and president of AIM; Ciriaco Reyes and Sen. Ramon Magsaysay. Other participants were Bernardo Villegas, Sec. Vicente Dayrit, Datu Michael Matsura and Gen. Jose Almonte.

ABS-CBN holds screenplay writing workshop

ABS-CBN Film Productions Inc. launches the first Star Cinema Screenwriting Scholarship Program.

The month-long workshop aims to train and discover aspiring screenwriters under the mentorship of some of the leading writers in Philippine cinema.

Applicants are required to submit two recent and identical 2x2 photos, a fully accomplished application form, and a sample storyline not exceeding two pages. Official application forms may be obtained from Star Cinema Creative Department.

Only 20 applicants will be chosen to participate in the program, which will be held during the weekends of November.

Call 4152272 local 3931 or 3906, or e-mail Carmi_Raymundo@abs.pinoycentral.com.

Deadline for application is on Oct. 6.

EDUCATION REVOLUTION

International civic groups 'adopt' schools

By Butch Hernandez
Contributor

RICK Zander and Harish Nandwani are young, highly motivated professionals who have made Negros Occidental their home.

Rick is an American national. He does development work for the Indigenous Development Coordinators Foundation (IDC).

Harish is a successful Filipino businessman of Indian descent and a very active member of the Rotary Club.

Since 1995, Rick and his wife Esther have been involved in mobilizing resources for the needy in countries like Uzbekistan and Costa Rica. In Negros Occidental, the Zanders have been tirelessly working with local non-government and civic organizations on poverty alleviation and education improvement projects.

Meanwhile, the Rotary Club of Bacolod North (RCBN) has time and again relied on Harish Nandwani's sharp organizational skills and boundless enthusiasm for the resounding success of their various socio-civic projects.

Rick and Harish took notice of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's Adopt-a-School after Ayen Tolentino, the FWWPP program officer based in Negros Occidental, introduced the advocacy to them.

A PUPIL from Banago I Elementary School tries his new pair of glasses while his Ayta classmate waits to have his eyes examined.

RICK Zander, a missionary for democracy from the Indigenous Development Coordinators Foundation

Getting started

To get the program going, the IDC Foundation and the Rotary Club of Bacolod North launched recently their own Adopt-A-School program for Banago I and 2 Elementary Schools in Bacolod City.

With RCBN president Nestor "Junjun" Jalandoni, Harish and Rick solicited 33 big boxes of book donations from Rotary Club Vancouver-China Town. More books are on the way.

Since they all agreed that a good education begins with a love for reading, the RCBN and IDC felt they might as well have the eyes of the school children examined. Kids who needed glasses were sent to Dr. Noemi Jurtado's clinic, where they got free spectacles and vitamins.

Shortly thereafter, the IDC adopted Pacol Elementary School and Emilio Infante Elementary School in Valladolid, and Concepcion Elementary School in Talisay, where they hope to embark on activities similar to those they undertook in Banago ES.

Missionaries

Ayen notes the genuine care and concern of Rick, Harish and all the other people at IDC and RCBN. Rick explains that the IDC is like a team of missionaries for democracy and positive human values.

"We will work among the needy to provide goods and services as well as share technologies that will assist them in their quest for improved living conditions," Rick said.

RCBN and IDC have contacted Rotary International and other international organizations to seek more help for children in public schools in Negros Occidental.

Rick and Harish instinctively know that so much more can be achieved by bringing resources and skills together for Adopt-a-School, People Power style.

Dance-installation at Green Papaya

"ANATOMY of Love and Desire" is a dance installation/performance piece of three independent pas de deux by artists Jose Jay Cruz, Nina Hayuma Habulan and Donna Miranda.

Each piece explores the relationship between bodies that carry culturally mediated meanings such as gender and desirability.

The show also features Maria Regina Lasam and Proseso Gelladuga.

Green Papaya curates the art performance in cooperation with Dancing Wounded Contemporary Dance Commune.

Green Papaya Art Projects is located at 124-A Maginhawa St., Teacher's Village East, Diliman, Quezon City.

Call 9273187 or e-mail greenpapaya@pacific.net.ph

Poetry book and CD get musical launch

NERISSA Guevara will launch her book and CD, "Reaching Destination," on Sept. 30, 5 p.m., at the UST Center for Creative Writing and Studies.

Tenor Henry Tong will perform "Shanghai Love," a Peking Opera-inspired piece written by the poet, translated into Mandarin and arranged by Tong. This is found on the CD.

"Reaching Destination" is the first poetry book set to music by top local alternative artists. The CD, under the same title, features artists such as Aia de Leon of Imago, Barbie Almalbis of Barbie's Cradle, Carol Bello of Pinikpikan, Badjao and Acid42.

All tracks were mixed by Bob Aves of Tao Records and mastered by Zach Lucero.

A CD and book package will be available at discounted prices during the launch. Call 4061611/7313101 local 8281 (Tuesday-Saturday) or e-mail sa_dagat@yahoo.com.

Not just kiddie talk

From page E1

social classes, etc."

In the play, which largely takes place in a garage that a group of kids has converted into a playground-cum-refuge, three animals—Bantay, the *askal* (street dog), Catalina, the *pusa-kal* (alley cat) and Pooh-Pooh, the fey poodle—serve as storytellers and dispensers of the moral lessons at play's end.

"Pepe en Pilar" is as much a play for kids as for adults. Its structure, based on the pre-war school primer used to teach kids the basics of English reading and comprehension, becomes the springboard for dissecting kiddie issues, but expressed in a fun, light manner through madcap banter and frisky song-and-dance numbers.

"The musical is about awareness and compassion, love, friendship and family," says its director. "It's a show where adults can learn from children."

The cast is led by seasoned actor Roy Rolloda ("One of the best actors working today," says Pablo. "He comes prepared, he studies his lines, he's very conscientious with his fellow actors, he can sing, dance and act!") and a mix of both professional and student actors. China Cojuangco has a major role, and yes, she has no qualms sweating it out with the rest of the cast in the rundown rehearsal hall.

In an ending that echoes the stirring wisdom of Stephen Sondheim's "Children Will Listen" from "Into the Woods," "Pepe en Pilar" closes with the kids singing a delicate, heartfelt plea: *"Titigan ninyo kami, pakinggan ninyo kami, intindihin niyo ang aming sinasabi..."*

It's a plea that may very well come from the great but unappreciated talents that make up Philippine theater today.

"Pepe en Pilar" opens Sept. 29 at St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Manila. Call 5280603 or 5365860.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

"PEPE en Pilar" is as much a play for kids as for adults, says its director, Jun Pablo.

BALLET Philippines in a performance abroad

Ballet goes global

BALLET Philippines (BP) is presenting its second emerald year offering, "BP Goes Global," Oct. 1-3 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater.

The company completed recently a successful tour of China. Acting artistic director Alden Lugnasin also participated in the University of California Los Angeles Asian Performing Arts Program.

"BP Goes Global" will feature dance pieces that wowed foreign audiences. They include Aku and Buhay by Lugnasin, Chichester Psalms by Alice Reyes, Rotislav Zakharov's Gopak, Redha's Les Petits Mots d'Amour, Alvin Erasga Tolentino's Field 1, and Augustus Damian III's Evacuation, which is making its Philippine premiere.

Lugnasin's Aku won in the 9th Concours International de Danse de Paris in France in 2000. A technique piece, it tests a man's physical limits and possibilities in body movements.

Field 1, an astonishing and powerful piece by the Filipino-Canadian Tolentino, features five male dancers. It shows how rice is deeply ingrained in the Filipino psyche and circle of life.

A compelling dance piece, Redha's Les Petits Mots d'Amour, embodies men's innermost desires. In this piece, man is reduced to his primal origins as he covets and yearns for an interactive ideal.

Reyes' Chichester Psalms is a modern ballet expressing the joys, serenity, humility, turbulence of crises and the warm comfort of faith. It was last performed in the '80s.

Gopak by Zakharov is an excerpt from the full-length ballet Taras Bulba, which is about the famous Ukranian hero.

Lugnasin's Buhay uses contemporary movements to highlight the majesty and nobility of early Filipinos. A celebration in dance of the spirit, unity and uniqueness of the Filipino culture, it was featured during the Asean Cultural Week in Cambodia in 2002.

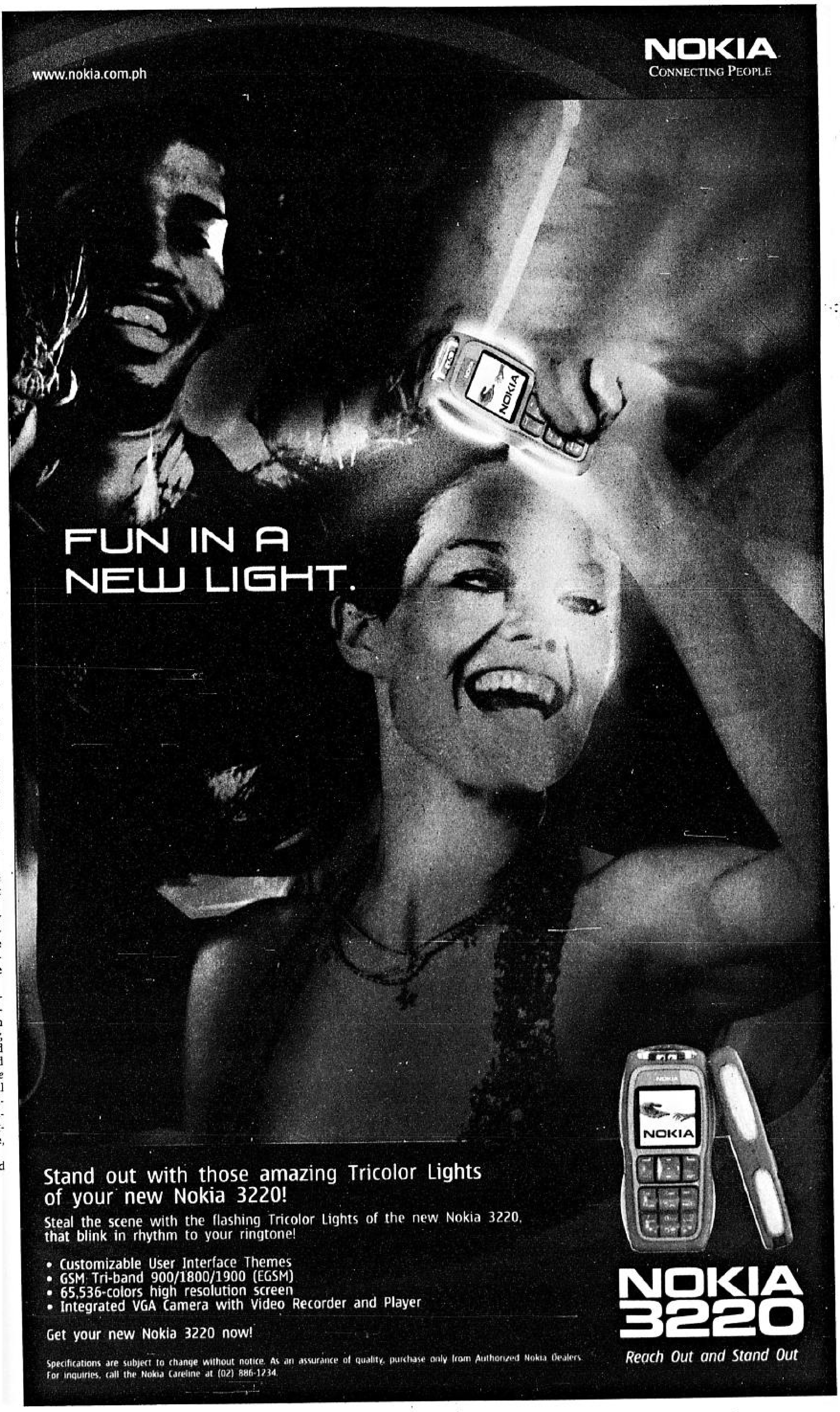
Evacuation by Damian, a former BP member and principal dancer in seven ballet companies in Germany and Switzerland from 1984 to 2004 (State Theater of Kiel, Germany, Ballet Art Francois Klaus, Switzerland, United State Theatres of Monchengladbach and Krefeld, Germany, among others), is a *pas de deux* that brought the famous Het National Ballet in Amsterdam a gold medal in a competition in Russia. Premiered in Germany, it received higher praise than pieces by choreographers Kenneth McMillan, William Forsythe, among others.

Performances will be at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Call 8326011 or 5511003.

Manaoag stages religious play

THE TEATRO ng Ina ng Manaoag will mount "Ina ng Manaoag: Kasaysayan, Kwento at Buhay" on Oct. 1, 2 and 3, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., at the Our Lady of Manaoag Pilgrims Center, Manaoag Pangasinan.

The gala night is on Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. Call (075) 5290132 or 09277938044.



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Saving lives by 'Uncovering Life'

CECILE Guidote Alvarez

KARA Magsanoc-Alikpala

PHOTOS BY JUN DE LEON

AVON, with the Philippine Cancer Society and the Philippine General Hospital, will present "Uncovering Life," an art exhibit auction, Oct. 4 at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila.

The auction marks the third year of Avon's Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer (KGBC) campaign.

Featured are the works of 15 top women artists: Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, Araceli Limcaco Dans, Ivi Avellana Cosio, Lanelle Abueva Fernando, Janice Liuson-Young, Lia Torralba, Nona Garcia, Honey Huertas, Lydia Velasco, Jeannie Javelosa, Susan Fetalvero-Roces, Paulina Constancia, Agnes Arellano, Julie Lluch and Impy Pilapil.

The artists donated their works to help fund the chemotherapy treatments of selected indigent patients of the PGH Breast Care Center.

The art pieces were inspired by 12 breast cancer survivors: former Senator Eva Estrada Kalaw, environmentalist Cecile Guidote Alvarez, artist Lydia Paredes, journalists Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala and Ann Montemar-Oriondo, economist Cristina David, educator Carol Porio, neurosurgeon Dr. Ma. Socorro Martinez, corporate executive Linda Panutat, flight attendant Gay Gomez, advertising and corporate communications professional Meryl Graham Schlachterman and children and women's cause advocate Dulce Saguisag.

The exhibit also includes portraits of the women by Jun de Leon.

On the third year of Avon's Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer campaign, the company will donate P5 from every sale of Avon Color and Beyond Color Lipstick in October to support the PGH Breast Care Center. The facility treats and diagnoses some 2,500 women each month. It was built through the joint efforts of Avon, the Philippine Cancer Society and the Philippine General Hospital.

"Uncovering Life" is organized with the support of the Peninsula Manila.

DULCE Saguisag

CRISTINA David

EVA Estrada Kalaw

Pet photo contest

POWERBOOKS Specialty Store, in cooperation with the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS), is holding "My Pet and I," an animal photo contest, until Sept. 30.

Visit any Powerbooks branch, fill up a registration form and submit your photo entry. The P30 registration fee will be donated to the PAWS Animal Rehabilitation Center.

Entries must be in full color or black and white and printed on 8" x 10" photo paper, accompanied by negative file or digital file copy in CD or floppy disk. They should not have been previously published in any newspaper or magazine.

Top 40 finalists will be displayed during "Furry Tales," Oct. 9 at the SM Megamall Atrium. The event will include a pet fashion show, an art contest, storytelling, games and a caricature demonstration by "Pugad Baboy" creator Pol Medina, Jr.

First prize is an overnight stay for two with buffet breakfast at the Century Park Hotel Manila, P3,000 worth of Powerbooks gift certificates, a Pedigree or Whiskas gift pack and P2,000 worth of Tokyo Tokyo gift certificates. Second prize is P2,000 worth of Powerbooks gift certificates, a Pedigree or Whiskas gift pack and P1,500 worth of Tokyo Tokyo gift certificates. Third prize is P1,000 worth of Powerbooks gift certificates, a Pedigree or Whiskas gift pack and P1,000 worth of Tokyo Tokyo gift certificates.

Sony Ericsson

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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Neruda tribute opens Fiesta 2004

PABLO Neruda

IN COMMEMORATION of Pablo Neruda's birth centenary, Instituto Cervantes and De La Salle University, in collaboration with the Embassy of Chile present "Neruda en el corazón. Neruda sa Puso," a poetry night in tribute to the great poet, to be held at the DLSU on Sept. 28 at 7 p.m.

The event paves the way for Fiesta 2004, the month-long Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts this October.

Filipino poets José Lacaba, Alfred Yuson, Marjorie Evasco, Marra Lanot, Joi Barrios and Benilda Santos will each read a poem by Neruda, as well as a personal poem inspired by him.

Poets Benjamín Prado and Ana Rosetti will be coming from Spain to take part in the program.

And as poetry is always beautifully accompanied by classical guitar, Ruben Reyes and Joseph Mirandilla will present dialogued pieces of Spanish composers.

To close the evening, the Embassy of Chile will award National Artist F. Sionil José with the Pablo Neruda Medal—a special distinction created by the Chilean government to commemorate the birth centennial of the love poet of all time.

José will be one of the 100 awardees worldwide to receive this honor. Among these writers are Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru), Nobel Laureate José Saramago (Portugal), Carlos Fuentes (Mexico) and Mario Benedetti (Uruguay).

Pablo Neruda, a Nobel Laureate in Literature, was one of the most original and prolific poets to write in Spanish.

Despite the variety of his themes, each of his books possesses a unity of style and purpose. Each composition embodies an aspect of his personality or a period in his life. Thus, Neruda's collected poetry also stands as his most personal autobiography.

Call 5261482 to 85, or visit http://manila.cervantes.es.

NATIONAL Artist F. Sionil José

Four trends of Neruda's poetry, corresponding to four aspects of his personality

1. His love poetry ("Twenty Love Poems...," "The Captain's Verses") to his passionate love life
2. His "material" poetry ("Residence on Earth") to the loneliness and depression he experienced while serving as a consul in Asia.
3. His epic poetry ("Canto General") to his commitment to a political cause: the struggle of the oppressed and downtrodden masses toward freedom
4. His poetry of the common ("New Elemental Odes") to his ever-present attention to details of daily life, his love for things made or grown by human hands

SO WHAT COKE ARE YOU, REALLY?

Did you know that it's easy to tell someone's character by the things he or she likes? Take the quiz below and be surprised how much your taste tells a lot about who you are and, most of all, what Coke will best refresh you.

What would you wear on a big date?
A. A classy, all-black ensemble from top to toe
B. Whatever's loose and comfortable
C. Preppy silhouette that's dominantly neutrals
D. Body-hugging that will show your assets

Who are the artists on your CD rack?
A. Maroon 5, Alicia Keys
B. Hoobastank, Incubus
C. Dashboard Confessional
D. Ministry of Sound, Ibiza

What do you read?
A. Newspaper and novels
B. Independent titles
C. Comics and sci-fi
D. Magazines and self-help books

How do you like your steak?
A. Well-done
B. Rare
C. Medium-rare
D. I don't eat steak

What is your dream cell phone?
A. The less complicated, the better
B. Something that no one else has
C. With lots of games and software to operate
D. Streamlined, with lots of stylish covers

What's you dream car?
A. Anything that has four wheels and drive
B. SUV
C. Beetle
D. Porsche

How will you pose in your yearbook photo?
A. Something that mommy would hang on the wall
B. Wacky and crazy, with tongue sticking out
C. You really don't care
D. Glamorous, almost like a magazine photo shoot

Now, the fun part. Below is an assessment of your personality profile. Find out which one you are based on your answers above. As a bonus, we've also written down which Coca-Cola best describes and suits you. After all, there's nothing like grabbing a Coke that'll refresh you the way you want it to.

Mostly A's
You're a classic. Everyone finds it easy to talk to you, and you get along well with almost everybody. You find it easy to get new friends, even in the most unlikely places

So to speak, you're like the Regular Coke. The one that everyone has always loved.

Mostly B's
You're on the wild side. You like to explore new places, and you love the outdoors. You find satisfaction in experimenting, and is happy knowing that there's always something different to do.

If you were a Coke, you'd be Cherry Coke. There's always a cherry wild side in you!

Mostly C's
You've got a lot going for you coz you've got it just right. You always see the fun side of things. Easy-going and humorous, surely no party will be the same without you.

You're definitely a Vanilla Coke—you have just the right touch of vanilla.

Mostly D's
You're ultra sophisticated. You always strive to improve yourself. You go to the gym, eat healthy food, because you know they're good for you. You're a New Age phenomenon!

Coke Light best suits you. It's the same Coke but with less than 1 calorie, it's good for you.

Regulahhh
No sugahhh
Cherry wildahhh
Vanillahhh
Vanilla Coke
cherry Coke
SUGAR FREE
Coca-Cola light
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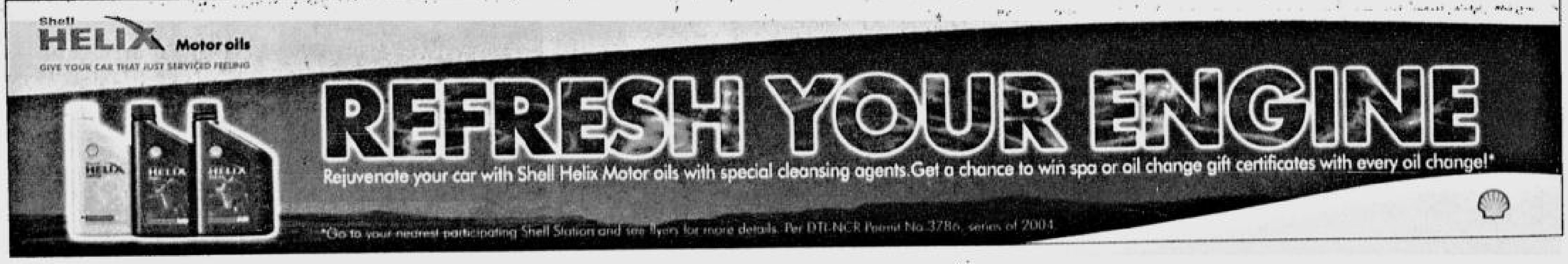

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*Go to your nearest participating Shell Station and see flyers for more details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3786, series of 2004.

See the world's best ads from September 27 to October 1 at Greenbelt 3, Makati

CANNESLIONS
Manila

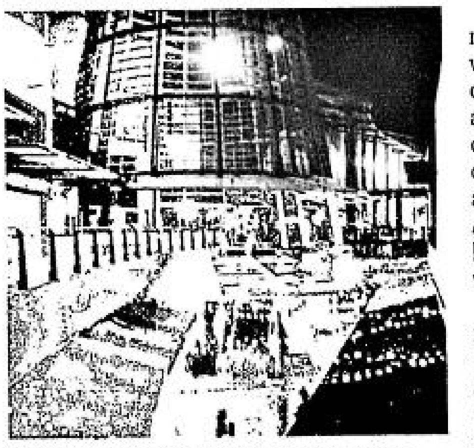
Lions on the Loose in Manila

By Celine R. Madamba

"Lions on the Loose" is the theme of the most exciting advertising event of the year entitled "Cannes Lions in Manila" organized by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the country's official Cannes Festival Representative, and the Advertising Board of the Philippines.

More than 300 "Lions", or winning ads of this year's fiercest advertising awards show in the world - the Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival --, are coming to Manila for the first time since the festival's inception in 1954. Besting more than 18,705 entries all over the world, the Lion winners represent today's standards of creative excellence and world-class advertising in the field of print, outdoor, TV, and direct marketing.

Some 2,000 advertising heads, creative directors and marketing professionals are expected to visit the exhibits and view the ads at the Cinema level of Greenbelt 3, Makati City from today until Friday, October 1, 2004. After this, the exhibit will be flown to Guayaquil, Ecuador where Cannes Festival Representative Diario el Universo, the leading newspaper in Ecuador, is expected to share the winning ads with their local advertising industry.



GREENBELT, Makati is the venue for the first -ever Cannes Lions in Manila

Every year in Cannes, France, more than 8,000 marketing and advertising professionals from over 60 countries globally attend the Festival to see the world's best ads in print, outdoor, TV, cyber marketing, direct marketing, and media lions. Next year, three more categories will be added to the competition mix - PR, design and radio.

With the inclusion of new categories, one can expect a growing number of entries worldwide; however, despite the thousands of entries submitted every year, only a handful snare the much-coveted Lion. So far, the Philippines lags behind its Asian counterparts with only one Cannes award -- a Bronze Lion last year in the direct marketing category for BCD Pinpoint's "Dos por Dos" campaign created for the Philippine Animal Welfare Society.

Fortunately, six Philippine entries survived the jungle this year as finalists-- Jimenez Basic's "Beauty Pageant" TV ad produced by Unitel Productions for Suyen Corporation's Bench response deodorant, TBWA's two print ads entitled "Pins" and "Bandage" for Adidas, and BBDO Guerrero Ortega's "Escalator" print ad and two outdoor ads entitled "Ledge" and "Escalator" for Fedex.

Tonight, there will be an opening ceremony and cocktails at Greenbelt Park, which will launch the exhibit and recognize our country's 2004 Cannes finalists - a joint achievement of both agencies and their clients. The opening will be attended by the country's crème de la crème of marketing and advertising including Industrialist Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II who will be the keynote speaker. Hosts and entertainment will be provided by ABS-CBN Network.

When asked how they felt about the arrival of the Cannes winners to the Philippines, some of the country's leading agencies said it would do wonders to how the advertising industry and general public would perceive advertising and its role in society today.

According to David Guerrero, BBDO Guerrero Ortega Chairman and Executive Creative Director, "the Cannes winners give us all a glimpse of how commercials can go beyond one way communication between advertisers and the public. They give an insight into a world where we respond to ads in a human way. And where laughter, surprise and enjoyment are all part of the way a brand communicates."

THE ELUSIVE Gold Cannes Lions... but not for long

McCann Erickson's Vice President for Strategic Planning Nandy Villar believes that "if we examine the winning ads closely, we can learn better about how single-minded ads work and how feelings as the message can move people more powerfully. It will teach us to look outside and embrace global standards."

"Awareness and knowledge about Cannes among agencies and clients lead to an aspirational spiral of desire and pride," added Tong Puno, managing partner of TBWA\Santiago Mangada Puno. "The public upon learning their compatriots' success will feel justified pride in being Pinoy."

Indeed, the .Philippines has a lot to be proud of. Our creativity and talent are unquestionable. But only by seeing the world's best can we rise to the occasion and achieve what we truly deserve - global recognition that is not only "Cannes-worthy" but worthy of every one of us.

Messages

INQUIRER

For more than fifty years, the Cannes International Advertising Festival has been setting the benchmark for creative advertising excellence in the world. Through it, agencies have had the opportunity to showcase the tremendous talent and unique cultures of their countries as reflected in their creative initiatives.

In the Philippines as in the rest of the world, the media landscape is rapidly changing with the influx of advanced technologies that have ushered in new and exciting opportunities. It is in the advent of globalization and these emerging trends that the Inquirer has found great excitement and inspiration in the Cannes Festival, which continues to help ad agencies and advertisers find meaning and relevance in their work.

Having been appointed the official Cannes Festival Representative in the Philippines, we at the Inquirer are proud to be an active proponent of the "Cannes Cause" to promote the standards of world-class advertising and to help the Philippines find its rightful place in the map of global advertising excellence.

"Cannes Lions in Manila" is our first official offering to the industry and our way of promoting advertising excellence by showcasing the world's finest television, print, outdoor and direct marketing ads to be viewed for the first time by many Filipinos. With the inclusion of forums featuring the best creative minds in the country and dialogues with top advertisers, we hope to inspire professionals in the industry and encourage greater partnerships between advertisers and ad agencies towards greater creative excellence at par with the rest of the world.

Together with the Advertising Board of the Philippines, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our partners in the industry who have shared their creative contributions to make this event a great success.

May this event serve as our source of inspiration towards making the Philippines the center of advertising excellence in Southeast Asia!

ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
President and CEO
Philippine Daily Inquirer

ADBOARD

It is with great honor that I bid a roaring "Bienvenue" to the prestigious "Leon du Cannes" on its arrival here in Manila.

Being the only annual gathering of the greatest minds in the field of advertising, creative, direct marketing, interactive, media and marketing worldwide, this by far, we have the privilege of showcasing the world's premium television, print, outdoor, and direct marketing ads to be viewed by our countrymen.

Last year, a Filipino ad man bagged the Bronze Lion for direct marketing, the first time our country ever won at Cannes since the award was introduced in 1954.

By releasing the Cannes Lions into the "wilds" of Manila, we hope to encourage our homegrown talents, to hone and improve on the craft and come out with winning advertising materials, good enough to capture a Golden Lion of our own.

Ultimately, we will aim for the stars and capture the Grand Prix.

By showcasing the Cannes Awards to our countrymen, we present to them a new set of quarry to pursue, a new set of heroes to admire and, a rekindled sense of belief in our capabilities to become an advertising superpower.

With this, we set our sights on the forthcoming 2005 Cannes Awards.

Congratulations and more power!

SEC. CERGE M. REMONDE
Chairman
Advertising Board of the Philippines

The Cannes Lions Advertising Festival is the most important award competition and gathering of international advertising people held in the world today. Each June, 8000 visitors come to Cannes, France, to network, look at the best advertising in the world across Film, Press, Outdoor, Media, Direct Marketing and Interactive, and attend the extensive seminar programs we hold each year.

Cannes is the barometer of what is happening in the creative arena and participation in the event helps emerging markets develop.

Thailand discovered the event 8 years ago, the commitment of the industry in sending people from that country has seen the emergence of Thailand in the area of creativity, with agencies in Thailand now consistently winning Lions in Cannes (2 Golds in Film and 1 Bronze in 2004).

With the support of The Philippine Daily Inquirer, we hope to see many delegates from your region in the future and of course to see Philippine agencies on the stage at Cannes picking up their share of the coveted Lion.

TERRY SAVAGE
Chief Executive Officer
Cannes International Advertising Festival

CEO Forum: Creativity, a business decision

THE ADVERTISING industry's first ever CEO forum will be held on September 30 from 8-11am at MyCinema, Greenbelt 3.

The head honchos of the country's top-spending advertisers talk about the business side of being creative. Learn what goes on inside the boardroom as clients and their agencies decide on the most creative marketing plan for the company. Who calls the shots? Does creativity make good business sense?

The forum, which will be moderated by Susan Dimacali, will open with welcome remarks from Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez.

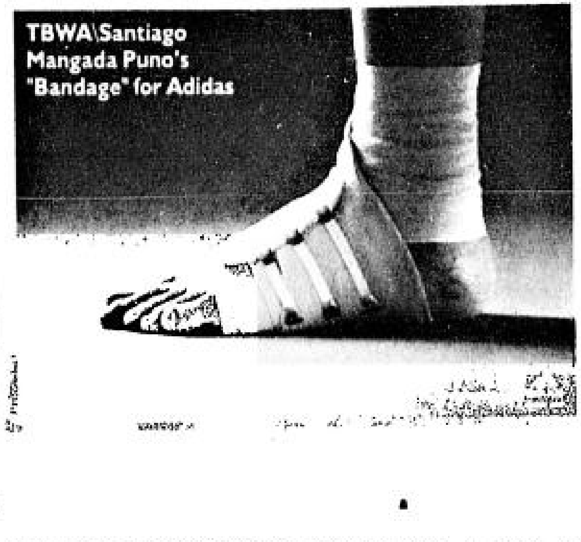
Cannes awardee David Guerrero, Chairman and CEO of BBDO Guerrero Ortega, will get to the heart of the debate, with case studies of some of the world's most awarded and highly successful campaigns in his talk "It Looks Great, But Does It Work?"

Three of the country's top CEOs -- John Cua (Procter & Gamble) George Yang (Gol en Arches) and Mars Aaron (Splash) -- w share their respective companies' experien in driving creativity to build business.

A must-see for all CEOs and marketi heads who wish to make the most of the advertising budgets. For details, conta Hazell Gonzales at 897-8808 local 261 Raymond Nacino at 818-6113.

Filipinos roar at 51st Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival

BBDO Guerrero Ortega's "Ledge" for FedEx



TBWA\Santiago Mangada Puno's "Bandage" for Adidas

bench/
RESPONSE
DEODORANT SPRAY

Jimenez Basic's "Beauty Pageant" for Suyen Corp.

IN THE highly compet and vast world of advertis it is a tough job to get not among literally thousand works competing for t viewers' attention and in try acclaim.

Despite not being abl bring home a Lion this year. Philippine delegation to th cent Cannes Lions Internati Advertising Festival still did country proud. Out of n than 18,000 submissions, six tries from the Philippines included among the finalists

They are BBDO Guerrero tega's "Ledge" and "Escalator FedEx; TBWA\ Santiago Ma da Puno's "Pins" and "Band. for Adidas; and Jimenez Ba "Beauty Pageant" for Suyen poration.

Expect to see these ads, sid side with the world's best d the 1st Cannes Lions in Manil.

Here are just some of Filipino finalists. *(Z Ronquillo)*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

In pursuit of Lions: Ad agency forum discusses the quest

PHILIPPINE Advertising agencies' most creative minds share their dreams of winning a Cannes and talk about their endless pursuit of catching a Lion.

Hear Cannes finalists TBWA\Santiago Mangada Puno's Melvin Mangada, first Philippine Cannes Lion awardee BCD Pinpoint's Dickie Soriano, Jimenez Basic's Don Sevilla, BBDO Guerrero Ortega's David Guerrero, and Lowe Manila's Raul Castro speak on the possibility of winning a Cannes Lions and surviving the global advertising jungle during the Ad Agencies Forum: "What Will it Take to Win a Cannes?" on September 29, 9am-12pm, at Cinema 2 of Greenbelt 3. Their respective entries will also be previewed during the discussion.

The program starts with a showcase of the gold winners, then an introduction by moderator Raul Castro (Executive Creative Director, Lowe Inc.). Open forum and Q&A follows the speakers' talks.

Reactors for the day are Unitel's Tony Gloria, Filmex's Raymond Red and the Creative Guild's Lilit Reyes. Seats are on a first come, first serve basis. *(Gidget Aranda)*

Event Schedule

Monday, September 27		
7:30 – 10:00 PM	**Opening Ceremonies and Cocktails**	**Greenbelt 3 Park**
Tuesday, September 28		
9:00 AM – 12:00 NN	**Public Screening of TVCs**	**Cinema 2**
Wednesday, September 29		
9:00 AM – 12 NN	**Ad agencies' screening and forum: "What Will it Take to Win a Cannes?"**	**Cinema 2**
1:00 – 4:00 PM	**Private Screening – Agency heads and CDs**	**My Cinema**
Thursday, September 30		
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	**CEO forum and screening: "Creativity: A Client's Perspective"**	**My Cinema**
Friday, October 1		
9:00 AM – 12 NN	**Public Screening of TVCs**	**Cinema 2**
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM	**Private Screening for agencies and clients**	**My Cinema**

Call 899-5955 on or before September 28 for slots in the forums and screenings, first-come, first-serve.

CANNES FESTIVAL REPRESENTATIVES 2004

COUNTRY	COMPANY	COUNTRY	COMPANY
Argentina	Film Suez	Korea	Digital Chosunilbo
Australia	Fairfax	Mexico	Reforma
Austria	ORF-Enterprise	Namibia	Virtual Marketing
Belgium	RMB	Netherlands	Screenvision
Brazil	O Estado de S. Paulo	Norway	CAPA Kinoreklame
Canada	The Globe and Mail	Peru	Empresa Editora El Comercio S.A.
Chile	Val Morgan FilmSuez	**Philippines**	**Philippine Daily Inquirer**
China	China Advertising Association	Poland	Best-Marketing Promotion Agency
Costa Rica	Ad & Marketing Communications	Portugal	+Cinema / JKP Group
Czech Republic	Screenvision Czech	Russia	Maxima
Denmark	RMB Dansk Reklame Film	Slovak Republic	Screenvision Slovakia s.r.o.
Ecuador	El Universo	South Africa	Cinemark
Finland	Screenvision Finland Oy	Spain	Movierecord Cine
France	Mediavision	Switzerland	Cinecom ag
Germany	WerbeWeischer GmbH & Co. KG	Turkey	Milliyet Gazetacilik
Hong Kong	Television Broadcasts Ltd	United Arab Emirates	Motivate Publishing / Motivate Val Morgan
Hungary	RMB Hungary Multimedia	United Kingdom	Pearl & Dean
India	The Time of India Group	Uruguay	FilmSuez Uruguay
Italy	Sipra	USA	USA Today
Japan	Toei Advertising		

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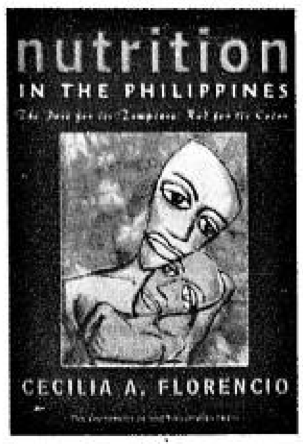
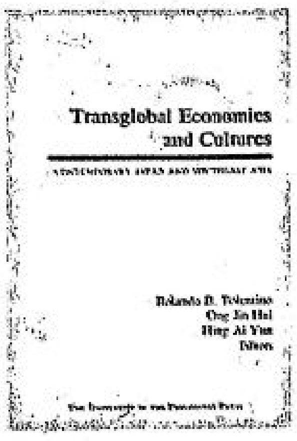
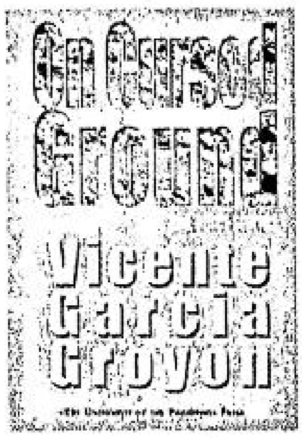
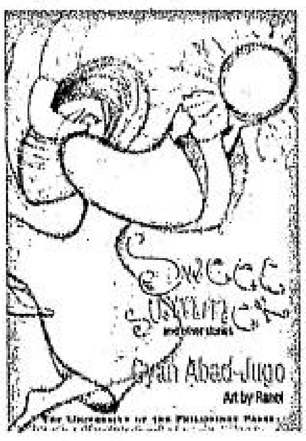
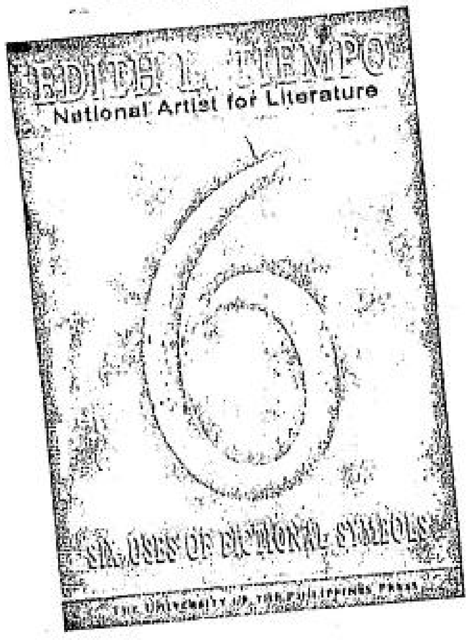









EDITH L. TIEMPO
National Artist for Literature
6
SIX USES OF FICTIONAL SYMBOLS
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES PRESS

New books from UP Press

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Press celebrates the publication of 40 new titles with a grand launch and the unveiling of the Malang serigraph "Read UP," on Sept. 30, 6 p.m., at the Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman campus.

Among the 40 new titles are "Six Uses of Fictional Symbols," the latest book by National Artist Edith L. Tiempo; "Directing for Theatre: A Personal Approach," by the late Edgardo Bengson de la Cruz; "Looking for Rizal in Madrid," the travel essays of Gregorio C. Brillantes; and "Between the Centuries," Sylvia L. Mayuga's third essay collection.

Other books to be launched are "Form and Functions: A Guide to Technical Writing in Economics," by Emmanuel S. De Dios; "Nutrition in the Philippines," by Cecilia A. Florencio; "Transglobal Economies and Cultures: Contemporary Japan and Southeast Asia," edited by Rolando B. Tolentino, Ong Jin Hui and Hing Ai Yun; "Communication Research in the Philippines," by Elena E. Pernia; "Sarilaysay: Danas at Dalumat ng Lalaking Manunulat sa Filipino," by Rose Torres Yu and Alwin C. Aguirre; "Postcolonialism and Filipino Poetics," by J. Neil Garcia; "Rondalla Arrangements of Filipino Folk Dances," by Edna Aurora C. Culig; "Diliman: Homage to the Fifties," by Elmer A. Ordoñez; "Homebound: Women Visual Artists in Nineteenth Century Philippines," by Eloisa May P. Hernandez; and a new edition of "Philippine Postcolonial Studies," edited by Priscelina P. Legasto and Cristina P. Hidalgo.

Directing for Theatre

The UP Jubilee Student Edition 2004, an important part of the UP Press' "Read UP" campaign, for which Malang created the serigraph, will also be launched.

The new line consists of new books, as well as new editions of classics: "Mga Kaluluwa sa Kumunoy," by Efren R. Abueg; "Selected Poems," by Merlie Alunan; "Bago ang Babae: Mga Tula," by Rebecca Añonuevo; "In Ordinary Time: Poems, Parables and Poetics," by Gemino H. Abad; "Decimal Places: Poems," by Ricardo M. de Ungria; "Maari: Mga Bago at Piling Tula," by Allan Popa; "Tutubi, Tutubi, Wag Kang Magpapahuli sa Mamang Salbahe," by Jun Cruz Reyes; "One Hundred Love Poems," edited by Alfred Yuson and Gemino H. Abad; and "Fourteen Love Stories," edited by José Y. Dalisay and Angelo R. Lacuesta.

Works by multi-awarded authors to be presented include "On Cursed Ground and Other Stories," the first short fiction collection of Vicente Garcia Groyon, who won the Palanca Grand Prize for the novel; "Pidgin Levitations," the autobiography in verse by UP Mindanao chancellor Ricardo M. de Ungria; "Sweet Summer and Other Stories," by Cyan Abad-Jugo; "Making Straight Circles," by Maria L.M. Fres-Felix; "Museum of Absences," by Luis H. Francia; "Moon Over Magarao: New and Selected Poems," by Luis Cabalquinto; "The Undiscovered Country," by Luis V. Teodoro; and the UP Institute of Creative Writing's "The Likhaan Book of Poetry and Fiction 2002," edited by Marra PL Lanot and Carla M. Pacis.

The Malang serigraph and all books will be sold at discounted prices.

UST Philets, Liberal Arts and Artlets to hold grand reunion

A REUNION of alumni of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters, College of Liberal Arts and the Faculty of Arts and Letters of the University of Santo Tomas will be held on Nov. 30 at the Polkabal and Pandango Ballrooms of the Manila Hotel.

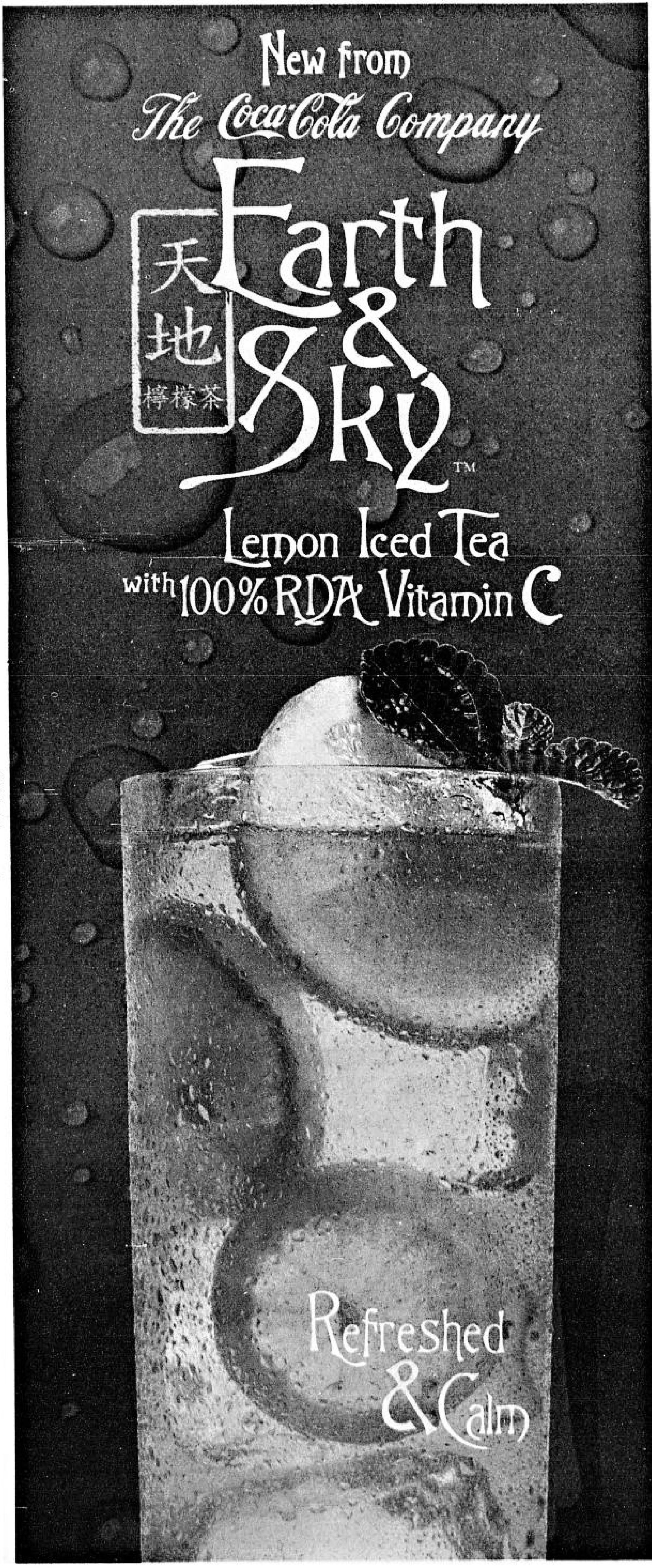
Starting at 5 p.m., the grand homecoming will also mark the Ruby Anniversary (40th year) of the merger between the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (Philets) and the College of Liberal Arts into the present Faculty of Arts and Letters of UST.

The organizing committee, headed by Dean Belen Lorezca Tangco, has projected an attendance of 500-1,000 alumni (including those abroad and planning to spend the Christmas holidays here). Raffle prizes of travel packages, cellphones, grocery baskets and gift certificates await the participants of this once-in-a lifetime reunion.

The jubilarians are those who graduated in 1954, 1964, 1974, 1979, 1989 and 1994. Outstanding alumni will also be awarded medals. The entertainment numbers are expected to come from talented jubilarians.

Alumni may call Lino Baron, 7314003 or 7313101/4061611 loc. 8220.

Other members of the organizing committee can also be contacted: Commissioner Hesiquio Malillin, 2446302 /0917-8908168/0917-8521739; or Prof. Roger Buhay 6471076/ 6471270/0920-9228091.



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